

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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BRAIN TWISTERS

By BARON DERRENERGER

NOTE: *We sincerely hope you like this third series of puzzlers. With the exception of Beel Schowe's contribution, we've had to dig all these out of nowhere. Certainly you have a few you would like to have published; send them in!*

1. A cylindrical bucket without a top is 6 inches in circumference and 4 inches high. On the inside of the vessel one inch from the top is a drop of honey, and on the opposite side of the vessel one inch from the bottom, on the outside, is a fly. Now can you tell how far will the fly have to go to reach the honey?

2. I have a square lot. Within the lot stands a lone tree which is 30 feet, 40 feet, and 50 feet, respectively, from three successive corners. How much land have I?

3. A brook running in a straight line passes a house and barn. The perpendicular distances from the brook to the house and barn are 12 rods and 5 rods respectively. The distance between house and barn is 25 rods.

What is the shortest distance a man would have to walk from the house to the brook, get a pail of water and carry it to the barn?

4. Said Robert to Richard: "If ever I come to the age that you are, brother mine, our ages united would amount to the sum of years making ninety-nine."

Said Richard to Robert: "That's certain, and if it be fair for us to look forward so far, I then shall be double the age that you were when I was the age that

you are."

Can you figure out the ages of Robert and Richard?

5. Three pine trees set on top of a hill. Each tree has three branches—each branch has three limbs. Each limb has three twigs; each twig has an acorn. How many acorns are there?

6. A plumber started to work in the morning when the hands of the clock were together between 7 and 8 o'clock, and stopped work before noon when the hands of the clock were again together between 10 and 11 o'clock. His rate was \$1.65 per hour. How much did the plumber get for his work?

7. A trunk will hold 32 pounds of clothes or 96 pounds of books. What will the contents of the trunk weigh when packed full of clothes and books if 30 per cent of the weight is made up of books and the rest of clothes?

8. There is a certain alley 20 feet wide. A forty foot ladder is placed at one side of the alley and leaned against the house on the opposite side. A 30 foot ladder is placed the same way at the other side of the alley. How far above the alley is the point where the ladders cross?

9. A room 20 by 30 feet has a strip of carpet three feet wide laid diagonally across the room with its ends cut off square. What is the length of the carpet?

(Turn to Page 23 for Answers)

ANSWERS TO BRAIN TWISTERS

(See Page 17 for Brain Twisters)

1. 5 inches.
2. 3687.41 square feet.
3. 29.411 rods.
4. Robert is 36, Richard is 45.
5. None! Acorns grow on oak trees.
6. \$5.40.
7. 40 pounds; 12 pounds of books and 28 pounds of clothes.
8. EDITOR'S NOTE: The author swears that he had a midterm the day before we went to press and didn't have time to work this one. What's *your* answer?
9. 33.3555+ feet.