

## SUGAR COATED PILLS

George MacDonald, '42

We have a common notion of what is meant by a sugar coated pill. We grown-ups, of course, can take our medicine straight, but the weaklings must have theirs camouflaged. At one time or another we have experienced how bitter these pills are once the sugar coating is removed. The change seems only to add to their bitterness.

There is another kind of pill which has no medicinal qualities. We are taking them every day, and they have in the heart of them a bitter taste. I refer to the war bulletins carried by our daily papers. Take, for example, an account of an allied reverse on any war front. You will look in vain for one that is not sugar coated. The smoothest phrases and thinnest arguments are put forth to minimize the disaster. The account of the campaign in Lybia serves as an example. For at least ten days before Rommel started his last offensive the situation was summed up in the indefinite phrase, "Mopping up operations continue." Recent events show that this was just a blind for the want of better thing to report.

We have seen men and material sacrificed to hold a certain position. Then, when it was lost, they turned around and tried to convince us that the loss was of minor importance, that the place had no strategic value, that it would enable them to concentrate their forces in more important positions, and a lot of such stuff. We look in vain for an honest appreciation of the loss.

From the Russian front we get a glaring account of Russian successes throughout the cold season. It all sounds very nice until we get a map and see where the Germans were at their farthest point of advance and where they are now. Then our spirits suffer a setback. Every success is painted up to the best possible advantage. We sometimes wonder where all those villages come from. There was no word of their being captured when the Germans were sweeping toward Moscow.

A recent coated sugar pill was the disclosure of the escape of the Schanhorst and the Gneisenau from Brest. We are blandly told that this is no disaster. In fact a danger is



removed by the flight of these ships to Heligoland Bight. But coat it as they like, the fact is that the prize slipped under the nose of the British lion. The escape left only an unpleasant smell to say nothing of the one hundred and ten bombing attacks made on the ships while they were in dock.

On our home front we find the same story. Every day we see pictures and accounts of the tanks, planes, armoured cars, and what-not rolling off the assembly lines. We have an illusion of them rolling off in never ending numbers. But they are not rolling off as pictures and accounts have suggested. They are moving off very, very slowly. But here we are again carried away by the painted picture.

Are we children that we want our pills sugar coated? We can take the bad news with the good. I'm sure most of us prefer the cold facts to vague or false accounts. A common expression among the bombed Londoners is, "We can take it". Well, so can we. Our Canadian soldiers took it in the last war and recently got a taste of the blitz at Hong Kong. They will have to take it before this war is over. So let us have the facts, the bad news with the good. Surely we are not such babies that we cannot take the bitter pill of losses and defeat without the sugar coating of a false optimism.

---

## THE NORDIC MYTH

Joseph MacLeod, '42

A most popular Nazi teaching to-day is that of racial supremacy. The doctrine, in brief, is that the Germans are the survivors of a great Aryan or Nordic race which has included all the more intelligent people of the world from pre-historic times down to the present day. It holds that members of this race have been responsible for most of the achievements of mankind throughout the century, and that all the great figures in history belong to it. Germans, then, are a superior people, and it is fitting that they should subjugate and rule all other nations. Hitler himself is an ardent believer in this doctrine, and by his hysterical rantings on the subject, has inspired his followers with a lust for world conquests, and a cruel, arrogant hatred for all defeated victims.