translator is set a more exacting task. He is not to be satisfied with imitation or pastiche. He is to let the originals make such an impact on his own mind that they suggest of themselves a certain spontaneous choice of words, constructions, and rhythms; genuinely English constructions and rhythms; genuinely contemporary, too, for not the use of words only, but the rhythms of English speech alter with the passing of time. And in this way he is to try to find language which will in some measure evoke in the reader a response corresponding to that which was evoked in the minds of the first readers by the original. That complete success in so formidable a task will be attained is improbable. It is a first qualification for a translator that he should know that he practises an impossible art. Yet it is permissible to hope that from time to time the ideal may be realized in part. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating; the new translation will not be published until 1961.

Double Dutch

Even in such closely related European languages as English and Dutch one can come across unsuspected distinctions that are a pitfall to the uninitiated and the unwary. The word 'leg' affords an instance. The novice will learn that the Dutch word for 'leg' is *been* (pronounced, ominously enough, 'bane'), of which the plural is *benen*. However, there is a minor complication in that *been* also means 'bone', but then the plural is (except for certain idiomatic exceptions) *beenderen*. So that every time you want to say 'legs' you must pause to make sure that you do not say 'bones' instead! But do not imagine that all is then plain sailing or you will be sadly disillusioned. One day, in triumph that you have correctly remembered this distinction, you refer to the legs of a table as *benen*, only to be greeted with shouts of laughter, since you have conjured up in the minds of your audience the picture of a table with *human* legs! Inanimate objects, insects and animals do not have *benen* but *poten*. You promptly add this un-English distinction to your thinking, but you are not quite finished: sooner or later you will discover that the horse, unlike all other animals, has not *poten* but, like human beings, *benen*! It would appear that a Dutchman's esteem for this noblest of beasts has a similar effect upon his language to that of an Englishman's sentiment for a ship!

D. H. W.

Rectification

We regret that there was a serious printing error in the last issue, October 1959. On page 190 four lines are missing between the 29th and 30th lines. These are to be found almost exactly opposite, on page 191, beginning with the word "context, ..." and ending ".....II Pe. 1 : 21 proves".