

August 8, 1938c

To the Editor, News-Press

FAITH AND LEVITY

"Calculus" says that Corrigan flew westward to Ireland, whereas I say he flew eastward to Ireland. We both agree that the atmosphere is moving eastward at the rate of 1000 miles an hour. If Corrigan flew westward at the rate of 100 miles an hour, relative speed (i.e. within the atmosphere), he was really going eastward at 900 miles an hour. But if Corrigan flew westward at the rate of 100 miles an hour, absolute speed (i.e. entire^{ly} above the atmosphere, which was moving eastward below him), then he was going westward at 1100 miles an hour.

It is all a question as to how high up Corrigan went. At one elevation he would be moving eastward, at a higher elevation he would be moving westward, no matter in which direction he pointed his airplane. Without knowing Corrigan's height of levation or levitation, it is impossible to determine whether "Calculus" or myself is right.

In this connection it may be interesting to note that a recent contributor to the Mail Bag on the subject of "Basic Laws" asserts that the earth is stationary and would fly apart if it were rotating at 1000 miles an hour. He necessarily implies that therefore the heavens must be sweeping around at the rate of 1000 miles an hour. Something certainly is moving at that speed - either heaven or earth - so it is only a question of which will you have it be. In either event, by using the force of levity to ascend to the proper speed zone, both speed and direction can be controlled at will. This is what Corrigan, perhaps unconsciously and unknowingly, did. He set his mind on Ireland and his faith and levity took control of him and his machine and the rest followed automatically.

"MATHEMATICUS"

(Please use pseudonym)