Yet another category of expressions used is based on simple association. Twenty-nine is always called in Selangor as "B.29" — a tribute to the American bombers which attacked targets in that state in the last war.

Thirty-one is called as hari terima gaji, pay-day, or sometimes as tiada kerja, tiada gaji — no work no pay, and 15 as full moon. All single numbers are called as bujang or bachelor, and most numbers in which the same digit is repeated, as for example 33, 44 etc. are called as kahwin or married. This explains the married "changkols", 77; "married spectacles", 88, and so on, but what is to be made of Yahudi matok, the Drunken Jew, sometimes referred to as the Drunken Dutchman? The rotund figure 9 is dubbed the Jew or Dutchman and number 69 with this now upside down, now vertical, is accordingly given the unexpected title.

Most numbers ending in zero are called as "raun", an abbreviation of the word "round" — e.g. 20 is "raun dua puluh" or "raun itek" — ducks round; 90 is the Jew's round, or sometimes Yahudi tua—the old Jew; 70, changkols round; 50, Miss Halimah's round and so on.

The game itself starts in a peculiarly Malay way with the shaking of the numbers and the chanting of a Malay verse which runs very roughly as follows:

"The palm fronds rock and sway, In listening order set your ears, Be attentive when the fruit appears, Or else your fortune will eb away."

Down go the eyes. The first numbers are thrown. Then the merry procession of married changkols, drunken Jews, homing ducklings, and so on commences at rapid speed. Long before the unaccustomed ear can complete the association with the correct numbers a glad shout goes up as a happy young Malay wins the pool. Then, once more, the misellany of the old and the new is invoked in the Malay language, whose greatest asset for its future survival is undoubtedly its adaptability.
LIKE the quality of mercy, Kuala Lumpur is twice blessed; it is the capital of the Federation and the capital of one of its component States, Selangor. Mercy is not an inept word to use of Kuala Lumpur. It is an up-and-coming commercial town which observes a large tolerance.

In mid-June, 1959, it kept its first centenary. Its exact age is unknown but it was roughly 100 years ago that Yap Ah Loy, acting on reports that tin had been discovered in the swampy area near the confluence of the Klang and Gombak Rivers, came and saw and gruffly overcame troubles that would have made Hercules congratulate himself that creating Kuala Lumpur was not one of his allocated labours. That was in 1857.

In 1951 some form of celebration occurred to a historically-minded citizen. Kuala Lumpur knowing the importance of being ancient, was quite agreeable. Some ceremony would show its awareness and fitness as the Federal Capital, its sense of history, its keen local patriotism. It would attract visitors and even per-

in it ... Kuala Lumpur is broad-minded as well as tolerant and when it learned that historical accuracy would have to be sacrificed, it was no more shocked than a film producer told to bring "Caesar and Cleopatra" up to date.

G. K. Chesterton had once written that the genius of Charles Dickens appeared in every post-card he wrote. When it was pointed out that post-cards were not in use till a few years after the death of Dickens, he replied cheerfully "Excellent. I have always contended that Dickens was in advance of his times."

Kuala Lumpur has the same fine carelessness about dates. In 1957 Malaya was still exhilarated with the bloodless revolution of Merdeka and there were other anniversaries too. Kuala Lumpur felt that its own birthday might be a redundant and possibly unwanted competitor for the public ear. It gracefully postponed its junketings. It had stuck out many harsher things: it had been burnt in civil tumult, flooded, harassed by low prices for its tin, coffee and rubber, crippled by fevers.

In the 1830's attempts by Sultan Mahomed to mine tin in the Klang River valley had failed disastrously. In 1857 Chinese miners had poled and prodded up the Klang River to the mouth of Gombak and then striking overland a few miles to Ampang found the precious ore and dug enough alluvial tin to induce Raja Jumaat, Raja Abdullah and Chinese financiers of Malacca to make a determined effort.

Of the original 87 of Yap Ah Loy's labourers all but 18 had died within a month probably of malaria. In spite of this appalling cost, 150 more labourers were recruited and the enterprise lived through times that were chaos punctuated by violence.

Opening up low-lying ground, especially in those days when bulldozers and anti-malarial drugs had never been heard of, demanded the utmost of effort. These stern struggles have conditioned Kuala Lumpur giving it a character distinct from other towns.

Penang has a culture and charm that used to attract many millionaire Chinese from other towns and coun-
there was an outbreak of hagiography which much increased our knowledge of the town. It is a place of bold experiment. Its architecture offers samples of every style. Palm Court Moorish, government-built working-class flats, bijou residence, compadrific, business office which the term “functional” may excuse but cannot justify.

Malays are not ideally happy in towns and the experiment of giving them a Kampung Bahru where a man can build a house and occupy land but has no right to sell or mortgage was highly successful.

IT built the first satellite town. It canalised its river which holds the record, unless an injustice is being done to the Bristol Avon, of being the dirtiest of the world. The actual words of Kuala Lumpur mean “Mud Mouth”. What other town would accept such an Ashby-de-la-Zouche-Whitchurch Canoniconorum of an appellation? or christen its surrounding family of townlets “Tuft of Gras”, “Dam”, “Factory”, “Rock”?

It cannot be expanded along the Great South Road to Singapore for that area is full of tin which should be extracted first. Doubtless that obstacle will be surmounted.

Detractors say that it is just a grossly overgrown English village with the characteristic village green bounded by the Church, the Bank, the Pub and the Post Office, that the roads never approach their objective except in the manner of a crab, the twisty road, the mazy road, the way that we must pass to Bukit Bintang is by way of Batu Lima-blas. At such discourtesies Kuala Lumpur does not so much as raise an eyebrow but thinks of its new water-supply at Klang Gates which are, inevitably, in that part of the town furthest from Klang.

Equally inevitably, Kuala Lumpur had three birthdays, June 13, 14, and 15. The official opening was performed by Mrs. Loong Leng Yew who admitted the first of 60,000 visitors to the exhibition of historic relics and present activities. A banquet in the Chinese Assembly Hall followed with accompaniment of a firework display in the Lake Gardens. On the 14th there was a procession of illuminated floats. On the 15th were school sports, national dancing, and a lantern procession of of 20,000 school children. The fireworks cost $5,000. They were arranged by a Japanese pyrotechnician and a glittering success.

Mrs. Loong Leng Yam is the only surviving child of the founding father, Yap Ah Loy, a very great man whose memory is kept green in the name of the shortest street in the place. Aged 83, the gallant old lady had been bed-ridden for two years. When asked to undertake the official opening, she was a little doubtful. Her doctor demurred. She consented. She drove to the Town Hall, was helped towards the tape, cut it and then slowly and resolutely walked back to her car and departed in peace. Here talking was done by another senior resident, Mr. Choo Kia Peng, who graduated from membership in 1910 of the Sanitary Board, the forerunner of the Municipal Council, to membership of the Federal and Executive Councils, and who felicitously referred to the union of British justice, law and order with the mutual trust of the Malays and the Chinese resulting in general contentment and prosperity. Two more brief speeches were made by the Municipal President Mr. A. D. York and Councillor Cheah Theam Swee. Thereafter, joy was unconfined.

IT had been feared that the rejoicing might be as spontaneous as the applause at a totalitarian rally but fears were confounded. The success was considerable and far more than succès d’estime. Traffic jams were many but the crowds a little less than anticipated. The banquet for 750 persons had a few dozen vacant seats. Hotels were not overbooked. The floats looked a little less gorgeous than they did at Merdeka. Nevertheless, it was a fine show and revealed Kuala Lumpur and Malaya at their best. There was the sense of the fitness of things; the ability to adjust, adapt and improve; the triumph over all obstacles; the confidence that the same spirit will endure and meet the future serene and unafraid.
GERALD HAWKINS reflects on the 100th birthday of the Federal Capital — a city of many contrasts

tries to retire to its hospitable shores and build those stately homes that make Northam Road so magnificent.

Ipoh, spared the perils of pioneer mining, is more free and easy with its money and amusements. Seremban is as delightful as Cheltenham and has the same whiff of provincialism.

Taiping, as a former State Capital, was somewhat “west-end” but now reminds one of a modern dowager starting a new life in business. Johore Bahru, dwarfed by its giant neighbour, Singapore, asserts itself by impressive public buildings. Kuala Trengganu and Kota Bharu are much enlarged fishing villages. Alor Star sprawls rather anonymously over a wide plain. Malacca wraps itself in the mantle of a romantic past of Malay Paladins, Portuguese Conquistadores, Dutch Merchants, English and Chinese trading adventurers.

Our Kuala Lumpur is without glamour. It knows that a good beauty treatment of fringing the roads with trees, raising flower beds at the roundabouts, building handsome houses and surrounding the whole with hills kept vividly green by an annual rainfall of 100 inches can make it almost a “pin-up”. It is at the centre of gravity of Malaya and is therefore more durably residential than other towns with their tendency to be a crossroads or a transit camp. It has much wealth but was never “full of stupid men with stupid money”.

If Singapore looks as if it owned the earth, Kuala Lumpur looks as if it did not care who owned it. Its attitude is without truculence and its practice is to thrive and strive and to seek the best advice when necessary.

The Federal Government had an uneventful but rewarding task. It took over the major functions of government like education, roads and communications, public health (the health statistics of Kuala Lumpur compare favourably with many western towns) hospitals and so on, relying confidently on private enterprise which supplies and manages the higher education of girls, the library, the largest concert-hall, many community centres and even swimming pools.

Since the war, its population has grown like Jack’s beanstalk for, in addition to the usual drift to the towns and the natural increase, the emergency has chased many refugees from the dangers of the country to the safety of the town, while the apparatus of a modern welfare state has called up an army of government servants. But Government is making a stadium, a picture gallery, a zoo, parks and community centres.

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KUALA LUMPUR can be relied on to make the best of things. When local government was first introduced, a set of by-laws was, of course, required. Going straight ahead, Kuala Lumpur borrowed from a comparable English town a complete ready-made set, which included provisions for the strengthening of the roofs of houses in the event of a heavy fall of snow. Kuala Lumpur did not care; it had something to go on and, anyway, what are laws but a few marks on pieces on paper which can be amended as local circumstances require? As the D-Day of Celebrations approached,