

# FRENCH SECTION

## BASEBALL COMPETITION TO START TO-MORROW

An interisland baseball competition is scheduled to start to-morrow, Sunday, June 25.

The opening game between the Colebay Dodgers of Cole Bay and the Marigot Baseball club of Marigot will be played at the Sport-field in Marigot tomorrow, and will start at 2 p.m.

The teams which will take part in the competition are: the Y.M.S.C. of Cul-de-Sac, the Caterpillars of Philipsburg, the Colebay Dodgers of Cole Bay and the Marigot Baseball club of Marigot.

Games will be played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at the following places: Marigot, Cul-de-Sac and French Quarter.

A schedule of the games will be published in our next issue.

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## DR. PETIT MADE TRIP TO GUADELOUPE

On Friday June 16, Dr. Petit who is Mayor, General Councillor and Government doctor of this Section of the Island left here by Air France for Guadeloupe.

He returned to the island on Monday last.

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## A CHRISTIAN APPROACH

TO

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

By Rev. K.R. Khan

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

St. Mathew's Gospel - 19:1-13;  
St. Mark's Gospel - 10:2-9;

Ralph Waldo Emerson once remarked, "that marriage was an open question. For from the beginning of time, those who were in, wanted to get out, and those who were out, wanted to get in." It may not be quite that bad, but there are

facts in the American picture that seem to point in that direction. I refer to the American picture, because I have done extensive research in this area during my years of residency in that country.

The United States has a very high marriage rate, perhaps the highest of any country in the world. In 1946, there were 2,900,000 couples joined in marriage. The next year fell only a little behind with about 2,000,000 couples. The present rate is lower, being about 1,500,000 marriages per year. But this decrease is largely due to the sharp decrease in births during the depression years of the thirties. Since 1940, the birth rate has been increasing annually and the marriage rate will no doubt begin to climb again soon. A recent census (1959) showed, that 3/4 of the men and 3/5 of the women in the U.S. are married before they are thirty years of age. This is the encouraging side of the picture. For the average American, marriage belongs to his pattern of life, and for him it is not a possibility, but a realization.

On the other side of the picture is an alarming increase in divorces. The rate in the U.S. has increased 500 percent since the war between the States. In 1904, one out of every eight marriages ended in divorce; by 1924 the ratio was 1 out of 6; since 1944, at least 1 out of every 4 marriages has "gone on the Rocks". If the present trend continues it will not be very long before 1/3 of the American marriages end in failure.

Divorce, however, is only the negative side of marriage. I think we in the West treat it too much and have let it become too much a part of our pattern of life. A fortitude in a pocket-size magazine made a wise-crack recently to the effect, "that soon a bride will be married with a wedding certificate in one hand and a bill of divorcement in the other, so in case she does not like her husband, she can send him back home before the honeymoon is over". It isn't