

All in a Day's Work

concentrating. I think that makes it a bit tiring, you really do have to pay attention to what you're doing.

Modern equipment has been a tremendous boon. I mean, I wouldn't be practising now if I was doing it standing up, I'm sure of that. I keep reasonably fit in that I ride a bicycle in the summer and I ski. Last bus strike I cycled all the way from Kew and I wondered why I don't do it more often. But I get a free ticket now, and so the railways cost me nothing.

I think the dentistry I most enjoy doing is scales and cleans, funnily enough, which bores most dentists to distraction. But I enjoy doing it because I think it does more good than anything else I do. I like doing extensive restoration work, bridges and crowns, because that is a kind of test of skill and patients are usually pleased with the results, and I'm pleased with the result in that I feel I have saved them having to wear false teeth. I don't much enjoy taking teeth out, in fact that is the least enjoyable part, it's sort of like going to a funeral.

By now, I don't have any patients that I don't like, so it's all fun, and that's why I don't want to stop doing it; I'd miss them all terribly, I mean, what could I do? I could find something to do because I always do find something to do. There are so many things I have never had time for. I've never been to an auction sale and I would like to go, but I'd much rather come here than go to an auction sale, because I feel so well when I'm here. I'm doing four days a week; I'm not planning to do any less than I'm doing now, although I might have to go down to three. I don't want to have to give it up altogether but there are some nasty tricks up the sleeve of Providence, you know, like Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis. One never knows, you could have a stroke.

Sometimes during the weekend one does feel one's age, but I don't feel my age here because everyone says I don't, which is a great boost. 'You haven't changed a bit since I've been coming here,' they say, and I say, 'Well, I hope to God I didn't look like this forty years ago!'

Diver Dave Moore

I originally started out wanting to be a mechanic, but girls didn't like the filth under my fingernails, and diving seemed the second best job. But as soon as I got into diving, there was no other job for me. I started diving commercially for the excitement, for the travel; I mean, I've done three years in Angola, I've worked in Nigeria, I've been all over the world, Japan, China, Russia, all through diving. I've been doing it now fifteen years. Every dive's exciting, it's as simple as that, it's an exciting job.

Money has never been important to me, it isn't important to my generation of divers. When I first started going offshore it was £13 a day, stay on for as long as you could, dodge the taxman. But the money is quite good now.

Every single body of water is different. We did two years on the Thames barrier, and there you were working in absolute zero visibility, and everything was done by touch. It was so dark, you could be burning under water with a massive arc welder, six inches in front of your face, and you couldn't tell whether it was on or off, it was that black.

Every single dive is different. No matter if you are doing the same job every day, there's always something different down in the sea, the currents are different, you've got tide, temperature, you've got visibility, you've got whatever's in the water, fish, wave action, all these things are different every single day, you never get two days the same.

Your mind does do very strange things; if you have got a vivid imagination a bit like myself, you can imagine if you're diving in an area with no visibility that everything you touch has got something on it that could hurt you, and so it's a question of going in the water and controlling the fear, and getting the job done.

Of course, it's dangerous because you are working in an alien environment, but I should think it's safer down there, in that you have more safety checks and you are more aware of danger, than you are in an

ordinary job where it's repetitive and nothing happens until there's an accident.

I started my own company three years ago; this is my fourth year now. Started off with a very small trailer and we've built up to quite a large trailer. We're a marine maintenance company, we do underwater cutting, inspections and surveys. The unfortunate thing about it is you don't get the chance to travel in the job. Brighton is as far as I go nowadays, company headquarters.

But I don't want to go abroad too much now simply because I've got a girl aged four, another aged one. I suppose I didn't want to be away as they were growing up and saying, 'Who's that strange man?' when you come home. I even tried a couple of other jobs to get out of diving completely, but that didn't work out. I sold insurance policies for a while and then - a great one for a diver - I sold fire extinguishers. Then I started in kitchen fitting. I did that for three or four months and I couldn't stand it, it was too boring, so I just went back diving again.

I suppose I'm very selfish in that I do what I want to do workwise, but I'm very lucky that I have the perfect wife, because she never moans, never grumbles, she accepts it. I was diving when I met her and I'm still diving now. She has never said stop, so really, I'm luckier than most, because divers have probably got the highest divorce rate there is going.

I have to work. If I don't go to work I get ratty. If I haven't got anything to do then I get bored, and once I get bored I get in a bad mood. I wasn't doing anything today, so I worked on the car all morning just to give me something to do.

I've been brought up to accept the fact that you go to work to earn your money, it's the way you live. When we leave here to go to Brighton to work, there'd be myself and one or two of the other divers who help. We get to Brighton. If the weather is bad and we're weathered off, we get half a day's pay and we come home. We don't work. So you end up down the pub. But it's not a very nice pint, it's just a pint of beer. Now if you've gone down there and done a real day's collar, a real day's work, then you think to yourself, 'Well, I deserve a pint now,' and you go in the pub and have the same pint - and it's a good pint, you know, because you've earned your money for the day, and deserve a pint, sort of thing.

Everyone knows me as Dave the Diver, that's it, I mean I'm not Dave Moore, I'm Dave the Diver, and I accept it because I've only ever really had any great success at one job, and that's diving.

Diving gives you a bit of pride in yourself, doesn't it? I mean you're good at what you do, you're a specialist, also there's not a lot of divers about, so it's a bit of an individualist's sort of thing. People ask, 'What do you do?' and when you say you're a diver, they think that sounds interesting, so then you have to go through the whole performance of telling them everything about your job, because it's interesting for people to talk to you. It's a bit of an ego trip, I suppose.

There's always the same two questions. 'How long can you stay down with those oxygen tanks?' which is stupid, really, because you don't breathe oxygen, and, 'Have you ever seen a shark?' It's the same two questions, I don't know why.

As it happens, sharks are absolutely superb. There's nothing to worry about with sharks. Jellyfish are the worst. In the Gulf, there's a jellyfish called a sea wasp that will kill you, it's very small and if it catches you on your throat or your mouth, you convulse in about fifty seconds and you're dead.

I'm an old sweat, as they call you, I really am an old diver: thirty-nine. The only thing that defines whether you can carry on diving is a medical, and you have one medical a year. There are only six registered doctors in the country that can do it; if they pass you fit you can dive for another year, if they pass you unfit, that's you finished. So your medical is the most important thing that you could possibly do once a year.

They started collating these medicals eighteen years ago with every commercial diver in the country, so they're now getting a picture of what this is doing to divers *en masse*.

There are some real problems emerging. For instance, because they decompress you with oxygen on the surface, it tends to cause a problem with your memory. It's very bad in a lot of older divers which they're only now starting to discover. I've got short-term memory loss; if you told me a telephone number, I'd forget it immediately. You've told me your name twice now, but I had to ask Jenny my wife to remind me again before you walked in; it's not being disrespectful to you, I just can't remember it. Funny thing is, I can remember every dive I've made.

I always look at the sea life, never take my eyes off it. It's fascinating. I mean, at Brighton at the moment we've got lobsters and crabs, as per normal, spider crab, shrimps, prawns, all floating around the water, we've got conger eels, lots of bass. And the thing about sea life is it's not

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frightened of you. You get near a bird, it will fly away, but put out a bit of bread in your hand and a fish will come and eat out of it because it's not frightened. And they just come straight up to you, and when you're trying to work there will be loads of them swimming in front of you all the time. It's fascinating.

I saw my first Angler fish about three months ago and it frightened the living daylights out of me. It was a monstrous, horrible-looking thing. I went up to tell the other diver, and he came and had a look at it and poked it and the thing went for me, and didn't go for him. There's a thing I'll never forget in the Gulf that I saw, used to see a lot of them. Small hole in the sea bed and in that hole lives a little tiny fish at the back of the hole, and at the front of the hole lives a little lobster, can't remember the name of it, but they are two individual creatures living together as one. The fish catches the food and shares it with the lobster, and the lobster keeps the hole clear, and when there is any danger the fish goes in and the lobster sits outside and protects the fish.

One of the nicest places you can be is down there because it's quiet and there's nobody to bother you and you are your own boss. When you come out, it's just back to ordinary. I mean, you even get colours under water you don't get on the surface. It's so much more exciting down there than it is up here. Most of the colours are fluorescent, so you get unbelievable fluorescent mauves and oranges and yellows that you wouldn't even dream of on the surface. The only colour that comes near to the yellow that you see under the water is the yellow rape that you get in big fields that almost hurts your eyes when you look at it, that's the yellow you get under water.

Divorce Lawyer Charles Doughty

I'm a grandfather, and fifty this year. I got married when I was twenty-two and I'm still married to the same wife.

I specialize in matrimonial law which is divorce, and divorce has now been made so easy that one is basically talking money: what the husband should pay the wife or what the wife should pay the husband, and a few cases about children, which are always the unhappiest.

Some young or middle-aged women are very miserable when they thought they had a happy marriage and the husband has suddenly said, 'I want out,' for good reason or bad, and they are left absolutely without any roots at all. You may talk about the equality of the sexes, but for those people it's amazing how little they know of what makes the world tick. They've just presumed their husband will pay the bills and have no idea of the struggle he's had to get where he is, and they've criticized like hell, some of them. They've complained they had to go out to do business entertaining, that they were forced to go abroad on business promotions, but equally they get upset when it suddenly stops.

I do get a little cynical when they start blubbing. I make the fairly standard remark, 'If you want to cry I'll give you a cup of tea - and I will charge you double for the time you are crying.' It's amazing how they stop. If you let some people become very emotional about their own problems they can't help themselves.

If you're talking to a woman who's been married for many years, she has had, her judgements formed, developed, twisted by her husband: 'Whatever my husband says,' 'My husband wants me to do this,' 'My husband wants me to do that.' And then one says: 'Well, stop, just a minute; at the moment you and he are not on the same side; you are trying to organize your own futures apart. Now I've got one hour or a very short time to superimpose the views that I think you should hold over the years your husband has had, and if one lets emotions get involved then you've got a great deal of uncertainty, uncertainty leads to

bad temper, bad temper leads to trouble and trouble leads to expense and litigation.'

The husbands, for their part, look pretty blank when you show them the wife's calculations of what she thinks it's going to cost to maintain herself and a couple of children. There's a great big gulf and one never knows quite who is the least inaccurate in their recollections.

If you have an exciting or difficult or bad-tempered case, the adrenalin does flow a bit, but if you're not dispassionate and sit back and say what is correct, what is the law, you don't give sensible advice.

I think I most enjoy the initial interview with a new client, about whom you probably know little more than his or her name and telephone number and perhaps who recommended them, and seeing just how that person lives and what the problem is.

A lot of people come along and say, 'This may end in divorce, what would happen if I separated from my wife?' You give them general advice and answer any specific questions they may ask. You see some of them again when they come back and say, 'Now I've made up my mind and I want to go ahead.' Some you never see again, because they've decided they didn't want a divorce or decided they didn't like you and go somewhere else when they've actually decided to do something.

There are three common reasons for divorce: alcohol, boredom and secretaries. Which order they come in I don't know. Boredom I think comes fairly high and therefore one flits from flower to flower until somebody gets cross. Alcohol - married to an alcoholic, it just wears one down, according to clients who've had that misfortune, and everything goes, money, self-respect, appearance.

What makes a successful matrimonial lawyer? Good clients. I say disparagingly about matrimonial lawyers that they are fairly near the bottom of the tree in that the law involved is not enormous. One has to have a certain amount of common sense for the obvious pitfalls of conveyancing and Capital Transfer Tax, and that's why it helps to be in a big office because you've got other specialized partners who can avoid you falling into all the pitfalls. But the old adage about if you are dealing with the problems of the rich there is no problem, if you're dealing with the problems of the poor there is no solution, rings very true.

I'm sure I could find better ways of spending my time than working, well, dammit, wouldn't you? Would you work if you were in a position of being no burden or expense or trouble to anybody else?

I maintain glibly that 20 per cent of my work I would pay to do, 20 per cent I would pay not to do and 60 per cent is where the bread comes from. Now whether that percentage is a bit wrong one way or the other as a principle depends on what sort of day I've had.

One feels terribly sorry for some of the clients. Women because they've been bereft of any roots. Men sometimes, because one feels that if they pay what they're required to pay, they're left with a very bleak future. It is very seldom that one can do anything which in Wilson's phrase, 'at a stroke', would make all the difference.

The most painful situations arise from those who have married too young and it's a disaster; they've mucked up everything, they end up with two small children and no money, and you can virtually predict that they cannot have a happy life now, separate or together.

I hope I don't become cynical, I don't want to become cynical. But certainly one sees people who have remarried, and the old cliché about remarrying somebody very much like the first spouse is only too true, and one sometimes wonders why they bother. It's simply an additional expense.

I've spent my entire working life doing matrimonial work. When people come here and seek advice, the vast majority of them have already decided that they want a divorce and they are asking you to arrange it in the best possible way, whatever the best possible way may be to that person. The number of times that you say, like a surgeon, 'You must have it out, get rid of him,' against that person's wishes is very seldom.

The burden comes when one sees the end result, where people are separated from their children, or they're living in very much less comfortable surroundings, or they have a financial burden which they find difficulty in meeting. Then one asks, 'Could I have organized that differently? Have I got a result that is sensible under all the circumstances and in accordance with the law?' And you remember that business you learnt at law school, the moment you become a solicitor, and they tell you to take a decent holiday, because you'll never actually sleep 100 per cent through the worries that you have for the customer.