CRYPTO CORNER

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In the [October-December 1983] issue we return to the basics of cryptanalysis. The first problem is an easy one to get you started, even if you have never tried a cryptogram before. The problem gives you correct work lengths and punctuation. Use the short words and the contracted word to get you started. Look for familiar words with repeated letters. The system also uses a structured alphabet. List the plain text letters A through Z and when you figure out a letter, write the cipher text letter beneath the plain text letter to reconstruct the alphabet. You will find that the alphabet construction can help you recover more letters.

Y C D D G Y Y J C Q   D X E V Z A T A Q E Y M Y

V X U I M F G Y   M Z Y   U P T   X G P A X F—

Z L G   J G G Q M T K   E U C ' I G   Z X M C S V L G F,

Z L G   I M D Z U X E   E U C   Y D U X G

The second problem is much more difficult. The words are much harder to recognize, but there are a few chinks in its armor. Try the repeated word-ending in lines three [sic] and four and work from there. If all fails, the alphabet is similar to that of the first problem, differing only in the alignment of the plain text and cipher text letter sequences against each other.

F E G W X U B   R B E Q I U P D

U L O S F   M E G B   F E Y I—

K E B C Y H Q   I O F U   X E G B D,

Q G B H Y H W   P Y T H Y W X F   E Y I.

Solution on inside back cover.

CRYPTO SOLUTIONS

Below are the solutions to the Crypto Corner problems found on page 13. **Were you a successful Cryptanalyst?**

Solution 1:

Successful cryptanalysis

Provides its own reward –

The feeling you've triumphed,

The victory you scored.

Solution 2:

Tougher problems

Exact your toil –

Working late hours,

Burning midnight oil.