"Barnum Was Right,' Wails Zieph
Meets Generous Stranger, Gives Him $3,000 and Gets Headache, Just Like That.

A "philanthropist" walked through the sunny streets of Washington Heights yesterday intent on getting, rather than giving.

His accomplice spotted Joseph Zieph, 68, of 452 W. 149th st., who was out for a stroll at 151st st. and Broadway. He tapped the older on the shoulder and introduced the "philanthropist."

"This man," he told Zieph, "is very wealthy. He wants to give away money to poor people, but they must be thrifty. If you can show him a sum of money you have put aside during your working life he will give you a like sum."

Mr. Zieph agreed that the idea was grand and accompanied by the "philanthropist" and his friend, Zieph went to the Harlem National Bank at 125th st. and Broadway and drew out his life savings—$3,000.

"A thrifty man indeed," said the "philanthropist," as he grasped Zieph's $3,000.

The "philanthropist" rifled through some papers, ostentatiously banknotes, in his pocket. He bundled Zieph's $3,000 and his chauffeur gift into a handkerchief.

"Here's $3,000 for you—school! I'm getting tired. Run into that drug store and buy me some aspirin." Zieph complied with alacrity. He showed his new bank account of $3,000, which the "philanthropist" had bundled in the handkerchief.

He came to the sidewalk with the aspirin and what do you think? The "philanthropist" had flitted and all Mr. Zieph had for his $3,000 was a 25-cent package of aspirin.

Brooklyn Times Union, 21 March 1929