

There is probably not an educator or an educational problem of any importance whatever in this century that is not discussed here with fairness and intelligence. A good bibliography and index round out a very able work.

THE WESTERN RESERVE, by Harlan Hatcher. \$4.00. *Bobbs-Merrill*. The visitor passing through central Ohio is sometimes startled to stumble on church steeples and colonial homes that look as though they belong to New England. In a sense, they do. They stand in the Western Reserve, a 120-mile strip of Ohio granted to the state of Connecticut in 1786 and settled by some of its harder colonists. Today the Reserve is a kind of *rus in urbe*, in which the Yankee character has survived as durably as its steeples. Mr. Hatcher has dug deep in this history of the area, and his book should be the definitive word on this strange experiment in transplantation.

### FICTION

BAXTER BERNSTEIN, by Stephen Seley. \$3.00. *Scribners*. Mr. Seley ironically calls his Baxter Bernstein "a hero of sorts," but the description is overly flattering. Bernstein, an embittered liberal, sits out the war in Mexico, railing against mankind in some of the most kinetic prose since Celine. Words tumble from Mr. Seley's typewriter like curses from a cocotte. His pages sparkle with poetry or reek of decay. Bernstein himself, oscillating between debauchery and self-pity, is hardly an adequate vehicle for Mr. Seley's enormous talent and genuinely cinematic imagination.

AUTUMN SUNSET, by Ralph Marcus. \$3.00. *The Free Press*. Mr. Marcus' inability to create a character or tell a story has not deterred him from writing a novel, but these deficiencies will doubtless influence his readers against traveling beyond the first few chapters. Just why this talky, uneventful book about an English professor, a labor leader, and a couple of girls, was ever published is another of those minor mysteries of the publishing industry.

### MISCELLANEOUS

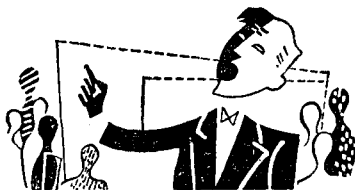
LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT, *Gandhi & the Way to Peace*, by Vincent Sheean. \$3.75. *Random House*. This remarkable volume was conceived as a tribute to Gandhi, but essentially it is another of those personal testaments which Mr. Sheean has been spasmodically loosing on the public for some twenty years. It marks his repudiation of that old devil, Western materialism, and his slightly ecstatic conversion to the *Upanishads*. To appreciate fully what has happened to Mr. Sheean, it is necessary to cut through a lot of thick Hindu metaphysics, and despite his literary graces, it is a hard pull.

ELMTOWN'S YOUTH, by A. B. Hollingshead. \$5.00. *Wiley*. Professor Hollingshead, who worked with Alfred E. Kinsey on *the Report*, here turns his attention to the relation between the means and mores of 735 boys and girls in a small Midwestern community. (Elmtown is not its real name.) His conclusion, that behavior and social status are closely related, will come as no surprise to more empirical observers.

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## THE OPEN FORUM

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### MEN — OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET

SIR: Being a woman, I have followed with understandable concern the Yale-Harvard Round Table on how to deal with the female surplus. In May, Dr. Linton of Yale presented an excellent case for polygyny in the *MERCURY* [see "The Case for Polygyny"], and it must be admitted that the solution harmonized beautifully with the time of year.

However, the July *MERCURY* finds Mr. C. Phillips Morton of Harvard in a more quiescent mood. [See "The Open Forum."] He would take care of the problem by means of female infanticide and temple prostitution. Both courses have their points. But I am afraid that female infanticide also has its disadvantages. Would Mr. Morton be willing to take the risk of drowning a future Madame Curie or Eleanor Roosevelt, not to mention a Hedy Lamarr or Betty Grable? Temple prostitution would, of course, eliminate this risk. However, the majority of women may not possess the fine religious fervor requisite for such a calling.

I make bold to conclude that both Dr. Linton and Mr. Morton are offering

therapy rather than prevention. Why not examine the root of the matter? If the male is on the road to extinction, it is he who merits our attention. Polygyny, I fear, would merely hasten his end.

While we are awakening to the importance of conserving the land and other natural resources, we should not overlook men, our most valuable asset. Let us lose no time in organizing the Society for the Preservation of the Human Male. If the drive is properly launched by two or three able columnists and radio commentators, every woman will join. Imagine the slogans: Do you want Clark Gable to become a dodo? Save Sinatra from the dinosaurs! Soon no woman will dare nag or annoy a man for fear that her sisters will gang up on her. . . .

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### WHAT IS THE NEGRO PROBLEM?

SIR: George Schuyler's article, in your June issue ["Jim Crow in the North"], is interesting and bitterly amusing, but it is neither new nor helpful in its approach