

In Our Readers' Opinion

I have been a subscriber to THE MERCURY for years. Your writers are solid and not stereotyped, always to the point and no academic language. Everybody can read and understand it without a dictionary at your elbow.

NED M. BECKER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I miss the historical articles, and biographical articles, even the humorous and the health articles that occasionally added to the old MERCURY.

STANTON A. COBLENTZ
MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

You gentlemen have contrived a wonderful mixture of oil and water. I love your politics and most of your ideas. But please file forever that Bohemian Cynicism and Sophistry; it is not nearly worthy of you.

GERARD J. TOBIN
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Your magazine is the greatest force for truth and decency that has come upon the American scene in several decades.

JOSEPH CAROLE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

THE AMERICAN MERCURY is the only magazine on the newsstands today that I read from cover to cover in every issue.

DONALD BUMP
CHESHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

I was a bit surprised to see an article on Dagmar in THE AMERICAN MERCURY. But I need not have been. It was thoroughly enjoyable and in admirable taste, well-organized and well written. A thoroughly adult performance.

PHILIP LITTE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Your September issue was the best yet.

JOSEPH F. HACKETT
MARGARITA, CANAL ZONE

In Our Readers' Opinion

I must take issue with your observation that Mr. Truman is an habitual liar, not because I disagree with you, but because I disagree with your manner in presenting it as a derogatory statement. Is not the ability of lying necessary to political leadership?

EUSTACE MULLINS
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

This isn't a letter of protest, but an apology for . . . Alfred Towne and his feature article in the August issue of the magazine ["Homosexuality in American Culture"]. That such an article should appear is shocking.

UNSIGNED
NEW YORK CITY

I have been studying homosexuality from a psychological viewpoint for the past few years, and I immensely appreciated the article by Mr. Towne in your magazine. I am gratified to find someone who is not afraid to write of these things.

HAROLD S. HOWELL
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

As a homosexual . . . I have read with a great deal of interest your article in the August MERCURY. It was not at all gratifying to read your article completely through, finding it an excellent job of literary artistry, but to reach the end and find you haven't said a single thing of any value whatever.

NAME WITHHELD
DENVER, COLORADO

The magazine is good. Some things especially; . . . "The Character of the Lover" (short story by Wright Morris), Alan Devoe, Huie's serialized novel, and "Draughts of Old Bourbon."

LODEMA GREEN
GREENVILLE, ILLINOIS

In Our Readers' Opinion

I'll admit some of your articles, and especially your stories, shock me at times, but . . . there are other articles that are frank and straightforward in the discussion of what is radically wrong with our country during these chaotic times.

K. RUSSELL

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Your article on dianetics was interesting, but far behind the times, and based on a superficial knowledge. . . . I worked for the organization for a couple months, being roped in for two hundred dollars. . . . It was fun. . . .

JACK KNEASS

SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA

Last month . . . I cautiously picked up a small, neatly made-up magazine called THE MERCURY . . . I have seldom been more delighted or incredulous. I didn't know there was actually a magazine that . . . honestly lived up to the over-used blurb of "pulling no punches."

TONI KEYSER

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

I like your new MERCURY. . . . But, O boy, if our Minister for Customs ever wakes up and reads your "Revolt of Mamie Stover," you are in for a good caning.

ELLA OWEN

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Until September 1950, due mainly to ignorance, I held the rather common notion that the Quaker Way was the right way, or at least a reasonably correct, way to world peace. After September, when I was (and am) a student at Haverford College, I had a rather rude awakening. . . . I thought that I was alone . . . since the Quakers have their private Manchuria where they are immune from criticism. Your editorial is a refreshing change in attitude.

ROBERT W. HUTTON

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

In Our Readers' Opinion

I thought you might be interested to learn that I read — twice — from cover to cover, the May issue of your magazine, and that I haven't recovered yet from the shock! . . . I like the way you hit straight across the eyes, the way you stand up straight . . . the verbal shock treatment you use to wake the schizophrenics among us to reality.

DAN TOPOUSIS
NEW YORK CITY

After reading your current issue, I could not refrain from writing you once more to tell you that I think you are doing the swellest job in America in producing the kind of magazine America needs.

CHARLES B. ROTH
DENVER, COLORADO

In as much as our children and ourselves are not majoring in biology don't you feel that the article "Sex Among the Porcupines" is unhealthy reading matter in this busy and trying world?

M. C. ULLRICH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Now that I've finished with this book . . . I shall put it in the furnace. If you're going to the trouble to publish a magazine why not one that people would be proud to have lying around the house?

T. F. M.
LYNN, MASS.

I have been a subscriber for at least ten years. When I read the highly spiced articles I don't choke or have a fit. But . . . Best wishes for your reform and success.

JOSEPH HELFMAN

"DEATH ON THE WING

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
Serge Fliegers &
Leon Pearson “

AS THE DIN of battle around Pyongyang subsided, Major George F. Gormlie, U. S. Intelligence, was interrogating a North Korean doctor. The doctor mentioned that he had spent much time working in a laboratory with a Soviet woman scientist. "Let's have a look at this lab," Gormlie said, and a small party was directed to an unassuming house on the South side of Pyongyang. The door was locked. A strange, almost mad sound reached them from within.

The door was forced open and the sight confronting Major Gormlie was as horrible as anything that he had seen on the battlefield.

What he saw was a well equipped, modern laboratory with clean glistening apparatus. Stacked around the wall were sealed cages. From these cages emanated the shrieks and squeals of hundreds of rats and mice — creatures which had gone mad from hunger. They were scratching and scurrying aimlessly in their tiny prisons.

When the major stepped forward to open one of the doors, the North Korean jumped forward: "Don't

touch them," he warned, "there is death on these animals. Black death, enough to kill you and all your armies, enough to kill everyone in Korea."

Then, from the doctor's lips, Major Gormlie heard the story of Soviet Russia's hell-kettle in Pyongyang.

THE LABORATORY HAD been established some years before, when the USSR occupied Korean territory north of the 38th parallel. A woman scientist had been sent down with all the equipment, and she proceeded to work on a rigid schedule. Rats and mice, locally captured and imported, were put into carefully locked cages in groups of twenty. Their fur was treated with chemicals to aid the propagation and survival of fleas and lice, which carry the germs of infection from rodents to humans.

Shortly after the American landing in Inchon, there was feverish activity in the laboratory. Under Soviet supervision, doctors and bacteriologists began infecting some 5,000 rats and mice with germs of