

# Atlas, the Next Generation

By VIRGINIA ROLLER BATDORFF



IT HAS always been the fashion to deplore the manners and morals of each generation. This coming generation will be no exception to the long-established custom.

Augmenting the natural gregariousness of humans, we are intent on encouraging a constant state of sociability in our children under a system of group study and play, and we are appalled because they do not want to think as individuals but must consult with the gang when making decisions.

We give them dollars which they do not earn. We complain because they do not know the value of a dime.

We educate them under a theory which is socialistic in nature because it assumes that learning must be made as painless as possible. We are shocked to find that 125,000 of our boys and girls who reach the age of eighteen each year cannot read or write.

We teach our children that success is the only worth-while goal in life, but we do not define this goal as successful *living*. Yet we are terribly worried because our children are developing such a materialistic viewpoint about *things*.

We encourage them to admire the brilliance of generals but forget to mention that war is stupid.

We impress our young with achievements of people of the past who *did* things, and we cannot understand why they have the vague impression that a philosopher is a man who is essentially lazy and sits around doing nothing.

We insist that our children spend years learning and working toward a definite job or career, but we give little thought to teaching them that before they can become really good doctors, lawyers, bricklayers or chemists they must learn to be good people. We cannot understand why so many of them are making such a botch of marriage and parenthood.

We propagate with little thought to the kind of children we will produce; we are alarmed that the rate of our national intelligence is dwindling yearly.

We worship the modern god called Intelligence and we hate to admit that the next generation will have less intelligence than we because we confused it and then substituted intelligence for a faithful old standby — Wisdom.

# MATTHEWS AWARD



◆ The J. B. Matthews Testimonial Dinner Committee announces a cash award of \$500 for the best essay on "Communism and Academic Freedom," written by an undergraduate student of an American college or university.

◆ Essays must be limited to two thousand words or less and submitted not later than February 1, 1954. All manuscripts must be typewritten. *Only original essays will be considered.*

◆ The winner of the award will be announced on March 1, 1954.

◆ Judges of the award will be George E. Sokolsky, Eugene Lyons, Ralph de Toledano, and E. Merrill Root.

◆ Manuscripts should be mailed to the Matthews Award Editor, The American Mercury, 11 East 36th Street, New York 16, New York.

# RED INFILTRATION OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

★ BY J. B. MATTHEWS ★

THE 1952 *Yearbook of American Churches*, published by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, informs us that there are 177 Protestant theological seminaries in this country. The most influential of the Protestant clergymen in the United States are trained in these schools.

At least fifty-four of these theological seminaries, or slightly more than thirty percent of them, have been infiltrated by the Communist-front apparatus. These figures are based upon public records of the past twelve years.

Scornful denials of the success of the Communist strategy in penetrating the ranks of Protestant clergymen do not erase the facts. Church leaders would do well to ponder the following expert testimony of Herbert A. Philbrick:

*"It is no accident that your church is the number-one target of the Com-*

*munist conspiracy in America today. The Reds have been flushed from previous cover. For one thing, since the war the Communists have suffered severe setbacks in the field of labor. They have lost control of many unions which they once dominated. Having lost power there, they have sought to gain power in another area — and the churches were selected as the target."*

Such was the observation made by Herbert A. Philbrick in the pages of the *Christian Herald* in the spring of 1953. In publishing Philbrick's shocking comment on the current strategy of the Communist conspiracy, the Rev. Daniel A. Poling, editor of the *Christian Herald*, performed an outstanding service for the whole church community of America. It was the sober testimony of a man who knows. It was, as Editor Poling observed, "a story never before revealed of Communist infiltration into America's churches."

For the information of those few