F O R U M

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HENRY GODDARD LEACH
Editor

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Editorial FOREWORD

THIS FOREWORD is being written in Chicago, the greatest all-American city. A seaport is one-fourth foreign, and New York is conditioned by a sophistication that is sometimes provincial. A New York editor conducting a national publication needs to buffet the gales off Lake Michigan at least once a year and be invigorated by the vital forces that are gathered in Chicago and surging up into the making of America. Even in the roar of its multiple activities one feels that his two feet are planted firmly on the ground. Every twelve months Chicago takes on a new skyline, and in general the change is not only in the direction of altitude but of beauty — beauty of line and design. Clearly the alleged city of slaughter houses and machine guns is also a city of dreams.

GROWTH IN beautiful forms in America is now running parallel to progress in utilities. The other night a group of artists and critics met in the Editor's home to discuss the question, "Is the American environment favorable to art?" Mr. Lewis Mumford claimed that it is not as favorable as was life in ancient Athens or in some European countries to-day. Mr. Harvey Corbett, one of the eight American architects planning the new World's Fair in Chicago in 1933, was one of those present who declared that our American environment is distinctly favorable to art. He believes that America will create new forms of beauty in harmony with the needs of a new civilization. Witness his skyscraper at One Fifth Avenue, New York. Devoid of Greek and Gothic suggestions, it rises free as America. This conversation will be reported in a future issue of THE FORUM as one of our series of Socratic Dialogues.

LOOKING STILL further into the future in the March FORUM, Mr. Roger Babson will answer the question, "After the automobile, what next?" It is an optimistic prophecy of a better America — surprisingly enough a less nervous nation

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FORUM

Next Month

FULL GARAGES, EMPTY PURSES
Roger W. Babson

The master statistician of business believes that American prosperity has been largely created by the expansion of the automobile industry. When will that expansion end? When the saturation point for the automobile has been reached, will business depression set in? Will full garages bring empty purses? In answering these questions Mr. Babson charts the future course of our national prosperity.

THE SCHOOL OF WOMEN
André Gide

The third and concluding installment of a novel by the author of *The Counterfeiters*.

DRY ROT IN HOLY PLACES
Frederick K. Stamm

A Protestant minister protests against the spiritual bankruptcy of The Protestant churches, and concludes that nothing short of a new Reformation can save them from the fate of the dodo.

ARE WE VICTIMS OF PROPAGANDA?
Everett Dean Martin vs. Edward L. Bernays

By newspaper, radio, and airplane an army of special pleaders for new tooth pastes, cigarettes, and what-have-you besiege the citizen with appeals to buy, subscribe, obey that impulse, and sign on the dotted line. Is this new phenomenon in American life an open war on common sense, a concerted raid on the public's pocketbook, or is it a helpful campaign of enlightenment and public instruction?

WOMEN AND FICTION
Virginia Woolf

A leading woman essayist and novelist explains why women have attained such startling success in recent literature.

SPAIN AND AMERICA
Salvador de Madariaga

A Spaniard makes a fiery charge against our "idealistic imperialism" in Latin America.

THE HOUND OF HEAVEN
Sarah Addington

A fantastic and humorous story recounting the post-mortem adventures of a hound pup in a hound's heaven.

WHY EDUCATE WOMEN?
Dr. W. Béran Wolfe

A psychologist urges that all women's colleges be abolished on the ground that their best graduates, in the academic sense, tend to become neurotic and maladjusted women in later life. He replies to President Neilson's article in this issue and calls for a new set of purposes in female education with the object of making women the partners and not the thwarted competitors of men.

STOICISM AND MENTAL HEALTH
Bertrand Russell

How to prepare children to accept the fact of death, so that their lives will not be shattered when death strikes their friends and family.

FOREWORD
Continued

— that Mr. Babson makes of the coming age of the aërial flivver. This brave prediction comes from the same Mr. Babson whose bulletins during the past years have warned American investors against the wild bull of speculation which Mr. John Flynn seeks to tame in the present issue of THE FORUM.

IN THIS NUMBER Mr. G. K. Chesterton again holds the leading position. With a Catholic bias tempered by his own kindly humor, he reviews THE FORUM essays scrutinizing current American literature that began in our January issue a year ago, and he pays his respects to Mr. H. L. Mencken and the *American Mercury*. This British critic and American writers in THE FORUM do not deny the ability of Mr. Mencken, Mr. Dreiser, Mr. Lewis, and their friends; nor do they belittle their usefulness in ridding the American scene of the ridiculous. They do fail to find in these inconoclasts a mode of life that will serve America. In THE FORUM last year Irving Babbitt offered humanism as a constructive formula, and Professor Gass deplored its failure even in our better artists like Willa Cather. Mr. T. S. Eliot criticized Professor Babbitt's humanism as something for the few rather than the many who must, he believes, cling to religion to give their lives consistency and purpose. With Mr. Mencken demolishing Puritan romanticism, Mr. More and Mr. Babbitt demolishing Mencken, and Mr Eliot challenging Mr. Babbitt's humanism and at the same time showing the weakness of Protestantism, the field was opened for the essay by Mr. Michael Williams on American literature and the Catholic spirit, a paper which Mr. Chesterton naturally endorses.

IN THE DECEMBER *Bookman*, Mr Gorham B. Munson, reviewing the same series of articles, says, "THE FORUM virtually declared war on 'the facile penmen of the *American Mercury*.'. . . Fortune was with the editors of THE FORUM and their readers . . . for unfolding of ideas in this series has assumed a dramatic form and worked up to a crisis that is exciting." Act One, according to Mr. Munson, was an issue between Humanism and Romanticism, which he declares actually settled. Act Two is the issue between Humanism and Religion. Mr. Munson predicates a Third Act in which the skeptic will be driven to psychology. But, Mr. Munson's psychology still seems too uncertain and incoherent to FORUM writers, and you will have to wait at present for other scenes in your Act Two. Religion will be heard from again, and Humanism requires more definition. In an early issue you will read a programme for the American humanist by Professor Gass of the University of Nebraska.

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