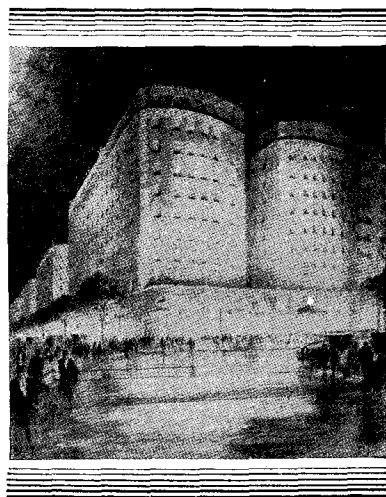


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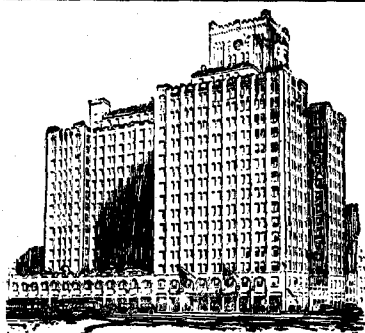
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## Forum Definitions

### What Is Beauty?

THE WORD announced for this month's definitions brought forth much gushing and rhapsodizing and very little definition. Judging by what they submitted, our contestants have only a very hazy idea of what beauty is; or if they have a clear perception of it, they run wild when required to express it.

At least they are in good company. Few would question that Keats knew beauty when he saw it; yet he wrote, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty"—and got away with it only because he was writing a poem and not a definition. James Truslow Adams made the same mistake in a recent article in THE FORUM, and was called to account for it by Elmer Davis in the December "Rostrum."

We suspect that there was more truth in the statement of the well-known writer (not so well-known that we would hazard a guess as to who he was) that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." The fact that *beauty* has a different meaning for every man would account for our inability to define it in any but the most general terms.

The following were awarded prizes:

1. Beauty is anything that awakens admiration or approval in the mind or consciousness and excites a pleasurable emotion. It is that which pleases and gratifies the aesthetic nature. What appeals to one as beautiful may not be recognized as such by another; hence, beauty is subjective, a relative rather than an absolute term. (*Mary I. Stanton, El Paso, Texas*)

2. Beauty is that quality which appeals to and pleases the aesthetic nature of an individual. This attraction generally is induced through the particular arrangement of color or form, or both, in an object or group of objects, by the tone of a sound or the harmony of a medley of sounds, or through the idealism or perfection expressed in a thought or idea. (*N. F. Brydon, West Orange, New Jersey*)

3. Beauty is an appealingly pleasing quality of a thing, personality, or idea, recognizable as character, form, color, or tone. In other words, beauty is that which delights the eye, which pleases the ear, which charms the perception. (*John Alexander Richardson, Tusculum, Alabama*)

4. Beauty is that which pleases the senses or uplifts the soul. (*Winifred B. Wolfe, Birmingham, Alabama*)

Next:—What is A FRIEND? Definitions, typewritten and not exceeding 100 words, must reach the Definitions Editor by January 25. Prizes of \$5.00 for each winning definition. These definitions will appear in the April issue.



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