A Page for Poets

Conducted by Henry Goddard Leach

Former President, Poetry Society of America



CAUGHT upon a thousand thorns, I sing." The most distinguished volume of new verse this month is READING THE SPIRIT, by Richard Eberhart (Oxford, \$2.50). Mr. Eberhart was born in Minnesota, went round the world on a tramp freighter, studied under cool-eyed I. A. Richards in Cambridge University, and is now teaching English - and presumably good morals — at St. Mark's School in Massachusetts. As a poet he masters the abstract; he is a friend of Auden and Spender but he is personal, not proletarian. His mind is metallic and prismatic. Although he is no optimist, he stands erect and smiling and recognizes beauty and design in decay, defeat, and delusion.

Stark and bare, stark and bare, The chill calm beyond despair Crept through me with its thin singing. I held life's impotent wisdom; aware Of impersonal vastness everywhere.

This is verse for strong men with clean minds.

Next comes a sheaf of four thin volumes of fragile but kindly meters: FOR THE LONELY, by Sarah Litsey (Favil, \$1.00); PALE MAIDENS, by Frederick Johnson (Verona, \$1.00); SMALL WISDOM, by Elizabeth Stapleton Stokes (Harrison, \$1.50); and GATES, by Sister M. Mandeleva (Macmillan, \$1.25). Miss Litsey writes a narrative poem of four parts happily reminiscent of Tennyson and the deep organ music of Victorian Britain. Mr. Johnson is sharply intellectual but aristocratic rather than proletarian, a master of the rapier word and the perfumed phrase. The lyre of Miss Stokes is gentle and gracious. Sister Mandeleva is delicate and wistful, just as a poet wedded to God ought to be.

The two bizarre books this month are X Equals, by Floyd McKnight (Arts & Press Guild), and RHYTHMICAL TALES, by Vladimir Karapetoff (published by the author). Mr. McKnight's first book was architectural in imagery; his second is a projection in mathematics and color. Mr. Karapetoff is a Russian, a composer of abstract music, and professor of electrical engineering at Cornell — in other words a four-dimensional mind. It is a stimulating exercise to follow him in his one-dimensional experiments with new rhythms in unrhymed narrative verse. Altogether typical is his candid and

humorous "Ballad of the Thief and His Girl." There is plenty of sharp Russian irony in this volume, as well as intimations of real poetry.

We follow with four miscellaneous volumes: GARDENS OF EDEN, by Helen B. Denis (Revell, \$1.50); Don Rose's HARDY PERENNIAL (published by the author, \$1.50); VILLON, by Robert Gordon Anderson (Lippincott, \$2.50); STARS ARE CAUGHT, by Richard George Anthony (Bard, \$1.35). Miss Dennis writes religious verse of passionate freshness and sincerity. Don Rose is recognized not only as a debonair Ledger columnist but also as an old FORUM contributor when he writes, "Two pieces in this modest variorum were published in the pages of THE FORUM by courtesy of Henry Goddard Leach, who paid me very handsomely for each." (That was before the depression.) Mr. Anderson applies his versatile pen to a lyric drama in rhymed verse of one of the love affairs of the gayest of all medieval poets. Mr. Anthony collects his own witty vignettes from a score of newspapers and verse magazines.

Finally we have the new anthologies, four of them: THE BEST POEMS OF 1937, selected by Thomas Moult (Harcourt, Brace, \$2.00); ADVENTURE ETERNAL, edited by Kathryn & Dwight Bradley (Stackpole, \$3.00); POETRY Out of Wisconsin, edited by August Derleth & Raymond E. F. Larsson (Harrison, \$3.00); 300 YEARS — THE POETS AND POETRY OF MARYLAND, edited by Loker Raley (Harrison, \$2.25). Mr. Moult is contemporary and discriminating in his selection; he recognizes talents as orthodox and as abstract as Robert Francis, Phyllis McGinley, Muriel Rukeyser, and Willard Maas. Adventure Eternal is a consoling selection of verse and prose of prophets, of many centuries and diverse tongues, who peer beyond the screen of death. In his collections of verse from Wisconsin and Maryland, Henry Harrison, poetry publisher, stages a sharp technical rally in the quality of his poets. There is no odor of subvention about these two volumes. Wisconsin is distinguished by selections from Zona Gale, Hamlin Garland, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox and by plenty of excellent verse of persons whose names are nationally unknown. The biographical introductions are helpful. Poe, Lanier, Tabb, and Reese distinguish the Maryland volume, and the editor has the discretion to include Poe's most remarkable poem, "Israfel."

POETRY AND PARSNIPS

In December we published on this page a paper by George A. Gullette, instructor in English in the University of Toledo, who maintained that poetry in America is dead, its bones buried in the nineteenth century. "American civiliza-tion," he wrote, "is active, virile, and extrovert; poetry has no place in it." Mr. Gullette's arraignment, naturally, stirred up a storm of protest in the press and even from the pulpit. A labor leader challenged him to public debate. We publish a typical letter from a Colorado reader and a defense by the corresponding secretary of the Poetry Society of America.

BURY MR. GULLETTE

To the Editor:

Would it be impertinent to suggest that Mr. Gullette read the harrowing childhood tale of Chick-a-Lick who thought the sky was falling down because a rose leaf fell on her tail?

If so, I apologize to the erudite Mr. George A. Gullette, instructor in English at the University of Toledo, for making the suggestion and also for my temerity in setting him right concerning the rumor that Poetry is dead and his statement that nine out of every ten persons never knew it was alive. I am curious about the source of his statistics.

That Mr. Gullette does not care for poetry or parsnips is his loss. His 'hearty dislike" for both does not prove anything. It does leave us doubting the value of his Harvard M.A. and B.A. degrees and a suspicion that, possibly, his wife does not know how parsnips should be prepared.

The sky was not falling down because Chick-a-Lick said it was and the gossip was repeated by Henny-Penny, Turkey-Lurky, Foxy-Loxy and Goosey-Loosy. Neither is Poetry dead; even though Mr. Gullette took up two pages in THE FORUM telling when, how and why it

passed out.

Poetry is immortal, it will never die. In this "active, virile" American civilization Poetry will continue to march gallantly on as it has since the beginning of time.

If Mr. Gullette would ask Mr. Padraic

A Page for Poets

Colum, Mr. Louis Untermeyer, Mr. Joseph Auslander and, incidentally, the editors of our leading poetry magazines concerning the death and burial of the Muse he would, no doubt, "uncover some curious and enlightening information." Even the man in the street could enlighten him as to the aliveness of "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" and "Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light," "Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam," to say nothing of "On the road to Mandalay."

Bury Mr. Gullette along with his Beowulf, his mug of ale and songs of bloody battle. I am neither a "bright-eyed old maid who palpitates at literary teas" nor a "long-haired boy." I have no M.A. or B.A. tacked on to my name. I am a grandmother with one grandson and if I ever hear him call poets "bright-eyed old maids of both sexes" I will take a fall out of him that will put him in the hospital until he gets some sense in his cranium.

CLYDE ROBERTSON

Denver, Colorado

In Defense

(Of My Friends — Not Parsnips)

by MARGERY MANSFIELD

Some people don't like music; others, painting. But they go their way without reviling or teasing those who do. Not so with poetry. It may be the fault of those who like poetry. This makes it worth while to comment on George Gullette's article, "Poetry and Parsnips," in the December FORUM.

Mr. Gullette does not like parsnips or poetry. His distaste for parsnips was accepted; but his wife was ready to leave his bed and board when he said he didn't like Emily Dickinson, Whitman, and Eliot. I, too, do not like parsnips. But it is one thing to say, "I don't like parsnips," and another to shout, as one flounces out of the grocer's, "And, what's more, the parsnips are dead, and are eaten only by eunuchs."

I am one of those for whom poetry is not dead. How can Mr. Gullette say it is dead, if his wife is ready to leave his bed and board for it? Perhaps what provokes her is not that he doesn't like poetry (no one can cultivate everything) but that he attacks her friends. For Emily Dickinson and, in some poems, Whitman and Eliot, are most decidedly alive. It is this that keeps them accessible while thousands of less vital bards are swept into oblivion. These three poets are mystics, and many people who like poetry do not like mysticism.

One might say that, since the coming of the printing press, the poet's function is to be a public friend. Anything that increases our understanding of other people has some value. Besides this, in a tense civilization, recreation has value.

Personally, I prefer the poet in the role of intimate friend, rather than that of public entertainer or press agent to a patron. I look into Keats oftener than into Homer or the Beowulf. It is easy to

say that poetry has deteriorated since poets took to writing books instead of entertaining social gatherings — but when one checks up on oneself one may find that the book poets are actually the more enjoyable.

I doubt if the lovers of poetry were ever in the majority or whether even the most popular arts and diversions today can dominate our complex and intensely ambitious civilization. I am struck with the unexacting good nature with which most people accept any entertainment provided them - even a poetry recital -but am equally impressed with how little any diversion means to them. They are primarily occupied with their own work, ambitions, and problems. Educators are trying to shift the emphasis from undergraduate team games, such as football and hockey, to golf and tennis, because, it seems, it is too hard to get together nine or eleven people to play with you after graduation. Yet there is supposed to be popular interest in these sports! It would be no trick to get together, in any city, nine or eleven people who would meet to read and criticize each other's verse.

A capacity for an art is better than the absence of such capacity. But this does not mean that those without it are lacking in spirituality or in general ability. The poet's art permits him to record whatever fineness he may possess. But it doesn't give him this fineness or make him superior to people who cannot write or read. If poets and poetry readers would concede this, the art would get along better.

Another thing: Poetry can be read and written in solitude. So friends and family get no compulsory education in it. I am no enthusiast for compulsory education,



They arrive anorectic



They depart boulimic

When you've lost your appetite (and with it, often, your spirits), you're anorectic. When you eat like an athlete, you're boulimic. A combination of exhilarating salt sea air and Chalfonte-Haddon Hall food is the quickest way to become boulimic—and braced-up. Come down soon. It's the healthy thing to do. Moderate rates. Restricted clientele.

LEEDS AND LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

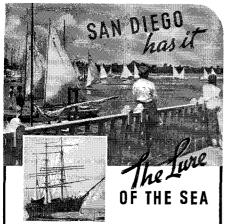
CHALFONTE -HADDON HALL

ATLANTIC CITY



but it is all most people get. The family may oppose Mary's taking music lessons, but it has to hear her. And the family sees Freddy's paintings. So the family learns, and, what is more important, it doesn't feel left out. But Peter, the poet, slips away by himself, and his mind is a mystery. There is something human here that deserves more sympathy and understanding.

Perhaps the radio may help in this predicament. It may get people nibbling at poems — people who now think them parsnips.



Whatever of lure seashore and bay afford ... San Diego has it.

Strange craft from far away ports ... sheltered yacht harbors ... mile upon mile of silver strand ... great piers cluttered with shipping ... small boat landings ... battleships and cruisers ... a modern city with warm winters and cool summers, perennial flowers and green lawns. Southern California at its best ... but added to all this, the lure of the sea, and a southern sea at that.

No place quite like **San Diego** for winter months ahead . . . come and enjoy them to the full.







● The Nauheim baths are known on two continents. The cuisine... the climate...the magnificent setting in the heart of the Finger Lakes...are alike memorable. Hundreds revisit this famous Spa everyyear, for the skilfully-planned rest and invigoration which only The Glen Springs can give.



N. Y. Office: 500 Fifth Avenue · MEdallion 3-5295

OUR ROSTRUM

These columns are open to brief letters commenting upon any article or subject that has appeared in The Forum. Because of space limitations, the Editor must reserve the right to publish letters only in part.

SEASONAL LABOR

To the Editor:

Mr. Beals is entirely correct in his contention that California wants the "Migs" but only during the harvest season ["Migs," by Carleton Beals, January Forum]. The Southern States have traditionally used the Negro in the same way. He can starve and be damned after the cotton is out. "Furnish" doesn't begin till spring plowing and then is discontinued again when the crop is laid by.

More particularly is this seen here in the sugar bowl during the cane harvest. Sugar cultivation is more highly mechanized and the industry is more closely controlled. Each year a great "emergency" is announced. The Governor issues a proclamation; the national guard is called out; and WPA does a fade out.

Even this doesn't solve the problem, for men with trucks must go raiding the Mississippi plantations for colored labor. It is a dangerous occupation for Mississippi planters are none too friendly when they still have cotton in the fields. But if dangerous to life and limb it is still quite profitable at \$1.00 per head. One can run in an average of 40 to the load and carry back an equal number the same day. It only takes the Mississippi Negro about a week to learn that he hasn't a fool's chance to get the wages he has been promised. He is then glad to waive any wages due and give any man \$1 to get back up to his wife and kids.

GORDON McIntire
State Secretary
Farmers' Educational and Co-operative
Union of America
New Orleans, La.

STOOGES?

To the Editor:

As one of the guilty "innocents" participating in united front movements initiated by Communists, I regard Mr. Rorty's evidence of conspiracy as pretty naïve ["Mobilizing the Innocents," by James Rorty, January FORUM]. . . .

The plain fact of the matter is that Communists, having determined to support democracy as against Fascism, are now to be found in every liberal movement. . . . Mr. Rorty doesn't like that. As a revolutionist of the Trotsky persuasion he wants his tactics and doctrine pure without middle-class confusions.

As to the League against War and Fascism (now the League for Peace and Democracy) let me say that I have been on its executive committee from the beginning and am so innocent as to be unaware of any manipulation of the League

in behalf of lining up forces for war against Fascism. . . .

ROGER N. BALDWIN
New York, N. Y.

To the Editor:

The article . . . is, I think, basically sound. . . . Generally speaking Communists today bless in America precisely the policies which they most vigorously damned prior to 1934. Some of the changes in line may be to the good. The reason for them is not. It is the substitution of a Holy Land with a holy leader, Stalin, for the great cause of the workers. . . .

Peace and Democracy—the general idea of which is good—I think the liberal and non-Communist elements in it are perhaps larger and more influential than he indicates. The program of the League with regard to war is essentially the Communist program stated in a rather vague and partially contradictory form. But the source of this kind of program is at least as much certain liberal delusions. . . .

NORMAN THOMAS

New York, N. Y.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED

To the Editor:

. . . I was preparing a talk for a seminar recently on the social significance of current non-fiction; so I made a comparison of the magazines of the year 1900 with the same magazines in 1937. I was reading along in the July, 1900, issue of Century when I came upon an extremely florid and eulogistic article about a certain Sarah Porter who founded Miss Porter's School at Farmington, Connecticut. She was the greatest educator — the pioneer in education for women — "advanced" — the advocate of high thinking and simple living — the creator of the famous "Farmington type." In fact, her school marked the top in education.

I chuckled. For thirty-seven years later the successor to Century bought my article criticizing finishing schools as a social menace ["What Good Are Finishing Schools?" January FORUM]. And the particular school aimed at was this same Miss Porter's for it is today one of the most backward of all the fashionable schools in that it blandly refuses to prepare a girl for college, believing no doubt that the best people are not too well educated. I thought the gap between those two articles, thirty-seven years apart, did represent social progress, or at least social change.

MARIAN CASTLE

Denver, Colo.



"I've <u>never</u> enjoyed a cruise so much"

You'll hear it often as your spotless, turbo-electric liner especially built for tropical service heads for the blue Caribbean. . . . You'll hear it repeatedly as you play—rest—tan in the sun on broad sports decks, and regally dine in spacious salons. You'll hear it from the smart, travelwise shipmates who share your pleasure and your company in the gay, informal shipboard life of the Great White Fleet . . . or ashore in fascinating tropical ports.



- EVERY WEDNESDAY to Puerto Colombia (Baranquilla), Cartagena and Santa Marta in Colombia, South America, with two calls at Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. 14 Days..\$185 up
- EVERY SATURDAY to colorful Costa Rica, including two calls at gay Havana and the Panama Canal Zone.
 15 Days..\$210 up

Orchestras, sound movies. Outdoor swimming pools. All outside staterooms, mechanical ventilation.

Ask about weekly cruises from Philadelphia to Guatemala—19 days \$255. Other Guest Cruises weekly from New Orleans.

Apply any Authorized Travel Agent or UNITED FRUIT COMPANY, Pier 3, N.R., or 632 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C., 111 W. Washington St., Chicago, 321 St. Charles St., New Orleans, Pier 9, North Wharves, Phila., 201 Tremont St., Boston.

Great White Fleet

Our Rostrum

WHO STANDS THE DAMAGE?

To the Editor:

That is a thought-provoking article of Messrs. Leslie and Quinn ["You Bet Your Life!" by V. A. Leslie & T. J. Quinn, January FORUM]. . . .

I happened to have been associated in that study sponsored by the Columbia University Council for Research in the Social Sciences which is referred to. . . .

The Massachusetts plan of compulsory insurance eliminates financial irresponsibility, but it does not provide a prompt remedy nor eliminate the necessity for dealing with the really impossible question of whose fault the accident was.

I have believed for many years that the ultimate solution would be found in an accident compensation plan, analogous to that provided through the workmen's compensation acts for industrial injuries. It was the conclusion of the Columbia Committee that such a plan is the way out. . . .

ARTHUR A. BALLANTINE Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine New York, N. Y.

MOTHER TROUBLE

To the Editor:

Katharine Winant ["Problem Mothers," December Forum] has done an exceptionally good job on two counts. She has described a very common and painful problem in clear terms and has further contributed an instance of successful solution.

I wonder whether she realizes that the solution was found first in herself and only secondarily in her mother's changed behavior. Maybe Miss Winant's modesty minimized this part of the story, but for the sake of others I wish she had told how many times she had struggled with herself before that eventual frank talk. Often she must have run away, talked back, given a cool lecture, a good shaking, a dose of poison, all in conscious or unconscious phantasy. Until she came to terms with herself she couldn't really help her mother.

... It is the child's own need to retain mother-approval which leads him to fall in with the indulgence against which another part of himself rebels. Miss Winant has projected too much undesirable feeling out onto the actual mother. Granted that in one sense the child "got this way" because of what the parents did during early years, still there comes a time when the young adult should take over responsibility for his own thoughts, feelings and actions. Blaming parents is a poor "out." Miss Winant's major adjustment was not of her mother but of herself. . . .

GOODWIN WATSON

Teachers College Columbia University New York, N. Y.



● A whole company of returning world tourists selected SOUTH AFRICA as the most interesting country on their entire cruise . . . Actual ballots taken on shipboard showed that South Africa — of all the foreign lands they had visited — most completely captured their imagination.

South Africa is rich in colorful sights and vivid experiences. Visit the big game reserve in Kruger National Park, the primitive villages of Zululand, Victoria Falls (over twice as high as Niagara), the diamond mines of Kimberley . . . And then, for interesting intervals between sightseeing trips, relax for a time at the fashionable resorts of the Cape, with their sporty golf clubs and world famous bathing beaches. Here, in a delightfully bracing climate, awaits the incomparable vacation!

VOTE — when you plan your next trip — FOR



Detailed information from all leading tourist and travel agencies.

For space and rates in our departments write to 8 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

TRAVEL TRAVEL

ESCAPE from mediocrity this year. Enjoy a heart-warming, soul-satisfying vacation in Switzerland. Learn what courtesy and hospitality really mean. Return to America with a rejuvenated outlook inspired by the majesty of the Swiss Alps, the scintillation of the lakes, the charm and quaintness of the country.

Your dollar is worth 42% more since the devaluation of the franc. Railroad fares have been reduced as much as 45%. No visas, no money formalities. Ask your travel agent or write for Booklet WG-1

> SWISS FEDERAL RAILROADS 475 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

M...BICYCLE...C

- through "Unspoiled Europe." Small groups A for students and teachers in company of N teuropean students. See much more and N spend much less. 10 wk. all inc. trips inc. O steamer from \$298. General and specialized trips available. Write for free booklet W. R SITA, 2929 B'way (opp. Columbia), N.Y.C.

EUROPE \$65 MEXICO \$30

Via freighter, the pleasant way thousands travel. Large outside rooms; good meals, 65 days to England. Belgium, Holland, Cuba, Mexico, \$180. Hundreds of others. Prove you can afford to travel. Get the ONLY COMPLETE booklet listing ALL freighter trips. Send 25 cents (coin or stamps) HARIAN PUBLICA TIONS, Dept. DF, 270 Lafayette St., New York City.

MISSISSIPPI

THE WHITE HOUSE, Blioxi, Mississippi. Finest resort hotel on Mississippi Gulf Coast. 18 hole golf course, boating, fishing, other sports. Laxarious accommodations, tempting food & excellent service. American Plan (incl. meals) JOHN T. WHITE, Mgr.

NEW YORK

ALLERTON CLUB RESIDENCES NEW YOR Rates from \$2 daily — 311 weekly, 3 mid town locations. For Booklet write Midston House, Room 114, Madison Ave. at 38th St

HOTEL SEYMOUR 50 W. 45th St. Nea theatres, shops, art galleries, Radio City. Quiet re fined surroundings. Single \$3.50 up; double \$5.00 up

Our Rostrum

UNDERRATED YANKEES

To the Editor:

Lee Austen's tantrum, "The Overrated Yankees," [December Forum] makes me wonder if he may not be the victim of some sort of a phobia or complex. Perhaps somewhere way back in his early childhood he was frightened by a Yankee. . . .

Even if it were true that the Yankee farmer is "a singularly irritating critter' with "all the virtues of a barnacle," that we have no sense of humor, no appreciation of beauty and that we are niggardly, ill-mannered, unfeeling and egoistic even then it would be unfair to call us overrated. In recent years the Yankee has been the butt of so many sneering jibes that his name has become almost synonymous with bigotry, intolerance, churlishness and mental stagnation. There isn't another racial group in this whole broad land that anyone would dare to state an unflattering truth about except in private, but it is always open season on Yankees.

Wilbur J. Dowd

Madison, Conn.

To the Editor:

. . Why have you opened your pages to the "empoisoned spirit" of Lee Austen, 'who 'befouls his own nest'" in his unfair, prejudiced, untruthful article? . . .

. . . Tell him that we Yankees may forgive him in time - say within the next five or ten years - IF he will confess his sins publicly in a future issue of The FORUM and admit that YANKEE religion, YANKEE culture, YANKEE virtues are unique, unchangeable, and perfect. If he fails to do this - MAY HE NEVER EAT A BAKED-BEAN OR A CODFISH-BALL AGAIN WITHOUT INDIGESTION AND NIGHTMARES! H. THOMAS EATON

Brockton, Mass.

Our Rostrum

PERFECT AGREEMENT

To the Editor:

The article by Harry Hibschmann in the December Forum, entitled "Equal Rights for Men," is a perfect exemplification of the fact that none are so blind as those who will not see. All the legal changes which he suggests, with the implication that women do not really desire equality if it means the loss of special privileges, are exactly what the National Woman's Party has been trying for years to bring about. . . . The National Woman's Party stands as firmly against socalled protective legislation for women as against the Salic law. It is our firm conviction, based on the whole of human experience, that such laws would never be passed unless the legislators believed the fiction — a snake which we have scotch'd but not yet killed - that women are "the weaker sex." It is not protection that we want, but a fair field and no favors. . . .

MIRIAM E. OATMAN Chairman, D. of C. Branch National Woman's Party Washington, D. C.

WANTED: ONE FREE MARKET

To the Editor:

I have read with some interest the article by Col. Charles H. March ["Monopoly's Stranglehold"] in the December issue of THE FORUM. . . .

There are two points upon which I believe Col. March is seriously misleading: First he confuses size with monopoly and associates the two with unfair competition. I can say for this industry, which is cited in the article as large-scale and (sic) monopolistic, that competition is and has long been so intense that profits in the industry are only a fraction of a cent per pound of product sold — and less than two cents per dollar of sales.

I am brought therefore to the point of being less alarmed over the engulfing of competition by Col. March's "ogres" and "Goliaths," "greedy for profit," with a menacing "stranglehold" upon the competitive system, than I am over the possible effects of the imposed restrictions upon the free flow of goods and services in our market structures. Regulations are, of course, necessary in order to keep competition honest, but regulations which increase production and distribution costs, which levy taxes upon one group in order to subsidize another group, which impose rigidities and restrictions more dangerous and grandiose than the wildest dreams of businessmen — these are devils beside which Col. March's hobgoblins are lesser pixies.

A MEAT PACKER

Chicago, Ill.

Next Month

and later

THE SHAKEDOWN

Thomas J. Courtney

Thomas Dewey's successful prosecutions of New York City racketeers have revealed the shocking ramifications of politically powerful criminals in our metropolitan sections and have given a new impetus everywhere to the drive against this form of crime. Here is the dramatic story of a battle, similar to Dewey's, in another State — the fight against racketeering in Cook County, Illinois, by the State's Attorney of that county.

FREER THAN A BACHELOR

William F. McDermott

The seamy side of marriage has been dragged into print, dissected, examined, and exclaimed over so much that it is refreshing to discover a partner in wedlock with something more than a sordid case history to report. Mr. McDermott, before his marriage, was warned so often against the prison he would enter when he marched to the altar that he has not yet entirely recovered from the shock of finding marriage not a prison but a gateway to freedom.

IS THE UNITED STATES A PERMANENT COUNTRY?

Morris Llewellyn Cooke

The above is not a foolish question. England is a permanent country because hers is a "sod" agriculture. But the United States is not necessarily — because ours is a plowed and cultivated agriculture. Deforestation, single-crop farming, haphazard drainage threaten a damage to our productive land that centuries could not repair. If we remember that it takes nature several hundred years to make one inch of topsoil, we will understand the trenchant statement that "the best citizen is the one who fills in the most gullies."

A DEFENSE OF FINISHING SCHOOLS

In pursuance of The Forum's customary policy of giving both sides of arguable subjects, the April issue will carry a reply to Marian Castle's "What Good Are Finishing Schools?" Several manuscripts offering a defense are at present in our office, and one will be selected for the refutation of Mrs. Castle's arguments.

and Century

HENRY GODDARD LEACH, Editor

MARCH 1938

	Phosphorus — Light Bringer	129
	Boss Hague	131
l	Should Teachers Marry? A Debate	
	I — Efficiency First	137
-	II — A Rule of Reason HELEN REYNOLDS	140
	Life and Literature	142
	The Theater Forum	148
	Problems in Living. The Forum Clinic	150
	Death Is Not a Necessity william marias malisoff	153
	What It Costs to Be a Frenchman	156
	Servants Are Humans	165
	Science and the Standard of Living ROBERT A. MILLIKAN	171
	"Freud" at Oxford	177
	Self-Sufficiency. A Poem Louise crenshaw ray	179
	Is the Investor Helpless? BERNARD J. REIS	180
	Lost Horizon	186
	The Artist's Point of View RALPH M. PEARSON	190
	\$1,000 Prize Poetry Contest. Announcement	191
	A Page for Poets	192
	The Book Forum	IV
į	Our Rostrum	VII
	The Record Review ARTHUR WALLACE HEPNER	x
	Toasts	XII
	TIME TIMES IN A	

VOL. XCIX-No. 3

THE FORUM, combined with THE CENTURY MAGAZINE (Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.), is published monthly by the Forum Publishing Company, Inc. 35 cents a copy; \$4.00 a year; foreign subscription \$5.00, Canadian \$4.50. Publication office, 10 Ferry Street, Concord, N. H. Editorial and general offices, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. Back copies not over three months old, 35 cents; all other back copies, \$1.00. Five weeks' advance notice required for change of address, and such notices must supply the old address as well as the new. Indexed in the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.

All manuscripts should be typewritten, accompanied by self-addressed stamped envelope, and addressed to the Editor at the New York office. No responsibility is assumed for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Printed in the United States of America. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Concord, N. H., under Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright 1938, in the United States and Great Britain by Forum Publishing Company, Inc. No article in this issue may be reprinted in whole or in condensed form without express permission from the publishers.

Subscribe to FORUM \star

A Meeting Place for Keen Minds

 \star

IT GIVES YOU BOTH SIDES, ALL SIDES OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

FORUM PUBLISHING COMPANY, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York City Please enter my subscription to FORUM for □ 1 year \$4 □ 2 years \$6 □ 3 years \$8

☐ Send me a bill ☐ My remittance is enclosed

Name	 ٠.	٠.	
Address	 		

Youth In the Toils

By Leonard V. Harrison and

PRYOR MCNEILL GRANT

Here is an authoritative and thorough consideration of the delinquency problem in New York, especially as it concerns delinquent girls.

The authors go beyond mere statement of facts; they make concrete and constructive recommendations for improvement. \$2.00

Laughing Odyssey By EILEEN BIGLAND

Mrs. Bigland went to Russia determined to eschew politics and economics and to enjoy herself. The result is a racy and completely entertaining book. \$2.50

all bookstores

The Macmillan Co. 60 Fifth Ave. New York

Poetry

A MAGAZINE of VERSE

Founded in 1912 by Harriet Monroe

"— the original and most important poetry magazine of modern America." — Mark Van Doren

presenting each month the most significant new poetry and poetry criticism

George Dillon, Editor
Jessica Nelson North, Associate Editor

\$3 a Year

Special Anniversary Offer:

5 Months' Trial Subscription for \$7

POETRY 232 East I	Erie S	St.,	C	hi	ca	aę	go	,	L	Ц					
Enclosed POETRY									S	e	n	d	r	n	е
Name															
Address	• • • • •														



THE BOOK FORUM



LLOYD'S: THE GENTLEMEN AT THE COFFEE HOUSE — Ralph Straus (Carrick & Evans, \$3.75).

DEFOE — James Sutherland (Lippincott, \$3.50).

MAN AGAINST HIMSELF — Karl A. Menninger (Harcourt, Brace, \$3.75).

HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE CLIN-TON — E. Wilder Spaulding (Macmillan, \$3.50).

WESTWARD, HIGH, LOW, AND DRY — Dorothy Childs Hogner (Dutton, \$3.75).

COMING SIR — Dave Marlowe (Lippincott, \$2.50).

F the purely narrative side to Miriam Beard's History of the Business Man took your fancy, follow it up with Lloyd's: The Gentlemen at the Coffee House, a history of one particular business, by Ralph Straus. Romantic and colorful rather than analytic, full of crotchets and anecdotes, the book gives a genial biography of insurance in England. Lloyd's, as everybody should know, is the biggest insurance institution on earth; it will underwrite almost anything from anchors to ankles, from war risks to horse races. It was Lloyd's that invented the briefest of all superlatives, the term A-1. To Lloyd's goes the credit for introducing the lifeboat, for developing lighthouses round the world. Into its rather pompous London headquarters pours a staggering collection of up-to-the-minute information on shipping and commerce: agents posted along the trade lanes of the seven seas keep the main office wise to weather, politics, and the movements of every vessel sufficiently seaworthy to stay afloat. In Lloyd's is reflected the structure and activity of the whole British Empire.

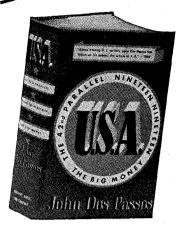
This vast institution began 250 years ago with informal gatherings of landlubbers who made their living from the sea. Every day, marine insurance brokers would meet at the coffee house of the enterprising Mr. Lloyd, where they sipped the novel Turkish drink, waited for customers, and exchanged the gossip of the trade. How their casual association grew into a kind of gigantic, orderly holding company, how the news sheet that the good Mr. Lloyd posted on his wall expanded into a daily paper printed now by Lloyd's own press is a fascinating story. Mr. Straus tells it with gusto, yet with a certain deference necessary in the first popular writer ever to have an official passport to the organization's archives.

Among the merchants who frequented Lloyd's in the late sixteen hundreds was an adventurous, improvident Jack-of-all trades, a Mr. Foe by name. Everything he touched turned to gold, then dust. As wine merchant, hosier, tobacconist, brick manufacturer, he failed with spectacular regularity. He disliked the trappings of aristocracy but was snobbish enough to decorate his name with a French prefix. Daniel Defoe he became. yet the change brought him no luck. Contentious by nature, he did his stint in the pillory for writing what he thought about the official church. As a religious dissenter he was at odds with the king, yet he managed to find time to serve as a royal spy. He was, in short, the perfect whetstone for any biographer's wits and for the already keen mind of James Sutherland particularly.

Had the contrary old rebel died at the age of 58, Mr. Sutherland's Defoe would be only the history of a prodigious pamphleteer. But in 1718 Defoe turned novelist. As a climax to perversity he gave up the highbrow art of political writing and published the granddaddy of pulp-magazine fiction: The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner. In the next ten years, Moll Flanders, Colonel Jack, and a spate of other stories delighted the public and outraged the critics. Trenchantly but humanely, Mr. Sutherland delineates this extraordinary character. Defoe is a corking piece of work - and impresses this reviewer as being the best biography so far this year.

Nor since the turbulent and introspective early seventeenth century has there been so much writing on the subject of battle, murder, and sudden death as in our postwar times. Novelists and poets, whether of the delicate or the violent school, reflect our preoccupation with the destructive and self-destructive forces of the human make-up. And, unconsciously perhaps, the bootstrap boys — the makers of friends and the dwellers alone whistle desperately in the dark because of this same power of devastation. If you shudder at the one and wince at the other, read Man Against Himself, by Karl A. Menninger, which probes into this "sickness that affects the whole world." The book will leave you with a jubilant conviction of reason beyond chaos and a sort of crusading determination to make your cousins and your children and your aunts share its wisdom.

in fiction



this is your richest reading experience of the season

U.S.A. by John Dos Passos

"Now that the three books in his trilogy—THE 42ND PARALLEL, NINETEEN NINETEEN, and THE BIG MONEY—have been published together as they were meant to be, it can be seen that he has produced a major work of considerable stature.

... He has been able to get into a book more of the life of his day than any other modern American novelist."—Charles Poore, N. Y. Times.

1500 pages, \$3.00

by E. H. Young CELIA

The author of "William" and "Miss Mole" writes a new novel which is again in the rich tradition of Jane Austen. It is the story of Celia, who, as a sedate wife and mother in a small English community, wore the cloak of placidity only as a graceful disguise.

\$2.50

by Leonard Q. Ross
The Education of
H*Y*M*A*N
K*A*P*L*A*N

In its sixth best selling month.
9th big printing, \$2.00

HARCOURT, BRACE & CO. 383 Madison Ave., N.Y. C.

The Book Forum

Starting with Freud's theory that the death instinct in all of us parallels the instinct of self-preservation, Dr. Menninger proceeds through a lucid development of ways for harmonizing the two. What makes you devil your husband or suspect your wife; why do some people whoop it up for war and others pray for peace; why do we overdrink, why indeed do we get a stomach-ache? — these are questions the Doctor meets every day in his clinic. He believes the reason hides inside a larger question — why do we all want to commit suicide, whether slowly or with a bang?

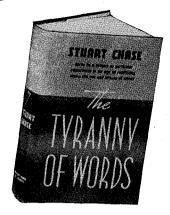
Whatever you may think of psychoanalysis, the stories and argument of this book will shoot a beam into the black corners of your own unexplored or unhappy experience. With grave and passionate concern for a society in which more hospital beds are occupied by the mentally ill than by those suffering from any other disease, Dr. Menninger pleads that a cure can start only from understanding. Though he looks toward a time when sanity will be as much a public concern as sanitation, he plans no Utopia with every congressman a Freudian scholar. Man Against Himself is rather timed and geared to the individual, and it should set a good many wheels to turning in the right direc-

HE only remaining figure in American history on whom a biographer seemed never to have drawn a bead has now been squarely picked off by E. Wilder Spaulding. In His Excellency George Clinton, Critic of the Constitution, he tells the story of one of the incorrigible democrats who carried through the American Revolution and whose attachment to egalitarian ideals was enduring enough to bring him into conflict with the aristocrats like Hamilton and the Federalists. While these gentlemen were seeking and winning a strong central government admirably fitted to serve their own ends, Clinton, with Jefferson and others of the radical group, valiantly—if not brilliantly resisted.

Wit was not Clinton's first-line defense. But strong he was and a competent administrator. He did for New York State what Sam Adams did for Massachusetts in preparing and organizing the Revolution and, as Governor of the State during the War, he established himself permanently as one of America's real heroes. So great was his local power that he held that office seven times. But when he finally rose to the vice presidency, the subtleties of Washington politics and the approach of senility cheated him of his dearest ambition. For George Clinton wanted to be president.

The background of this man, but for whom England might have kept the

in non-fiction



this is the exposé of BLAB you hear discussed everywhere

Stuart Chase's

THE TYRANNY OF WORDS

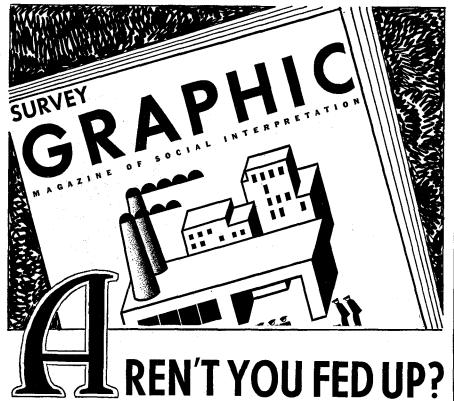
"All clever persons will get in early on the controversy THE TYRANNY OF WORDS by Stuart Chase will arouse.... I doubt if any book to be published in 1938 will be more important.... It is so good-tempered a book that I was afraid it would not stir up enough fury to be recommended by the enemies it makes. I was wrong. Already I have heard it denounced by a 'philosopher,' an 'economist,' a 'publicist,' and a bookseller as shallow and unfair, so it is certain to have a triumph."—Sinclair Lewis, Newsweek. \$2.50

by Katherine Mayo GENERAL WASHINGTON'S DILEMMA

An almost forgotten incident of the Revolutionary War, in which the honor of the young republic and of its great leader were in serious straits, is here narrated by the author of "Mother India." It is an amazing tale, filled with high suspense and the rich pageantry of our early history.

\$2.50

HARCOURT, BRACE & CO. 383 Madison Ave., N.Y.C.



Aren't you fed up with conflicting opinions?

How about sitting in at a round table where fact finding, first-hand experience and discovery are the bill of fare?

That's what you find in Survey Graphic, now offered you at a surprisingly low introductory rate.

Take the field of experience: our readers have been sitting in while Governor Lehman cracks the notion that parole is a menace to society; while Walter S. Gifford, president of the A. T. & T., and Gov. Frank Murphy of Michigan bring out their ideas on industrial peace and well being; while Felix Frankfurter of Harvard and Walton Hamilton of Yale trace the process by which ideas turn into action in the field of law and public policy.

As for fact finding, Maxine Davis gives the nib of a 6,000 mile trip to find out what is left of American opportunity in terms of jobs for young people. Here are close-ups on the streamlined industrial relations on the Union Pacific. And the labor policies in those auto plants at Dearborn where Henry Ford sits at the wheel. And here are appraisals of the new consumers' movements that are taking head, by D. E. Montgomery of the AAA; of voluntary schemes of industrial arbitration by Webb Waldron and the health front in the South by Surgeon General Parran. (There was demand for half a million copies of his earlier syphilis article.)

As projects in discovery, Dr. Douglass W. Orr, a young American physician, brings out the surprising testimony of panel doctors and panel patients as to health insurance in England. And Pierce Williams, the economist, explores our American depressed areas — they exist you know — where hard core unemployment confronts old districts. Just as William Allen White added up America for us up and down the Main Street of Emporia, and newspapers from coast to coast quoted it.

Charles A. Beard has "long re-

Charles A. Beard has "long regarded Survey Graphic as indispensable to anyone who wishes to keep abreast of current social progress".

Form sound opinions of your own! You will — when you read the factual articles which appear every month in Survey Graphic. Regularly 30c a copy, now five issues of Survey Graphic are yours for only \$1, our offer to new subscribers. Mail the coupon today!

SURVEY GRAPHIC 112 East 19 Street, New York City	F3
Send me the next 5 issues for o dollar I enclose payment OR will pay when billed	
Name	
Address	

The Book Forum

colonies much longer, Mr. Spaulding recreates vividly and with scrupulous scholarship. His portrait of a Founding Father who disapproved the inflexibility of the Constitution seems almost impishly designed to plague the present worshipers at the political shrine of Was, Is Now, and Ever Shall Be.

A camping outfit and an encompassing curiosity were what Dorothy and Nils Hogner took on a prospecting trip into the American deserts. They have come back with a thick, juicy book called Westward, High, Low, and Dry, the chronicle of their 15,000-mile trek through the West and Southwest. You can join the Hogners and really see your country, for theirs is not the sophisticated, inwardlooking eye. When they sat down to observe, it was for the simple pleasure of absorbing line and form and color. They talked with any likely-seeming acquaintance along the way for the fun of hearing what he had to say. They learned a little archaeology here, a lot of folklore there; their book is a full-length course in how to have a wonderful time for very little money.

DAVE MARLOWE'S Coming Sir, the autobiography of a plain, ordinary man, is such a perfect reproduction that it takes on significance out of all proportion with what its author has to say. Complete candor, a strong feeling of his own decency, and a flashing sense of the comic are his tools for telling the roughand-tumble (but in no way exceptional) tale of his life. Sometimes a sailor, sometimes a waiter in hotels and night clubs, he earns his wages, large or small, with no envy for the rich or pity for the poor. Grievances he has in plenty, but they are impersonal rather than righteous. Balzac or Hardy might have written him, but what makes him so interesting is Dave Marlowe's ability to recreate himself in his own image.

M. L. ELTING

(Beginning on page 142, Mary M. Colum discusses the new books listed below.)

TWO WARS AND MORE TO COME — Herbert L. Matthews (Carrick & Evans, \$2.50).

GOLIATH — G. A. Borgese (Viking, \$3,00)

THE UNITY OF PHILOSOPHICAL EXPERIENCE—Etienne Gilson (Scribner, \$2.50).

THE LIVING TORCH—Æ (Macmillan, \$4.00).

THE PRODIGAL PARENTS — Sinclair Lewis (Doubleday, Doran, \$2.50).

THIS PROUD HEART — Pearl S. Buck (Reynal & Hitchcock, \$2.50).

OUR ROSTRUM

These columns are open to brief letters commenting upon any article or subject that bas appeared in The Forum. Because of space limitations, the Editor must reserve the right to publish letters only in part.

FORD'S MAN BENNETT

To the Editor:

I have read with the greatest interest the article by John H. O'Brien on Harry Bennett ["Henry Ford's Commander in Chief," February Forum].

As one who felt the heavy-handed treatment of Bennett's "loyal" employees last May, I want to congratulate the writer of this article and the publishers of THE FORUM for this brilliant and thorough expose of the machinations of Henry Ford's private army. We, in the United Automobile Workers of America, who are expending our energies for the organization of the Ford workers so that they may bargain collectively with their employer in line with the law of the land, know the story of Harry Bennett backward and forward.

However, the American public does not know the story - there is a misleading notion that Henry Ford and all of his assistants are socially-minded humanitarians. Until the truth is known and this myth is shattered, there cannot be law and order in Dearborn and in many other places in the United States. . . .

RICHARD T. FRANKENSTEEN International Vice President United Automobile Workers Detroit, Mich.

HOMES FOR THE MILLIONS

To the Editor:

I wish to congratulate you on your editorial on "A Housing Era?" in the February issue of THE FORUM. During the past few months I have had occasion to read a great many written productions on the housing problem; yours is the best short presentation of the subject that has come to my attention. . . .

Rt. Rev. John A. Ryan, D.D. Chairman

National Housing Committee Washington, D. C.

To the Editor:

Certainly the low-priced house is a challenge to industry. As Mr. Leach pointed out, the small house, however, is no solution for the low-income families in large urban areas and I am afraid that the low-priced multiple dwelling is still far in the offing though it must be worked for. When it comes to the low-income family, of course, as is now recognized by all, subsidy is necessary; not only Federal subsidy, but especially the willingness of cities to make their own contribution. . . . If the city pays the interest on the bonds to be issued, it will bring private investment money quickly and satisfactorily to the rescue. . . .

MARY K. SIMKHOVITCH, Director Greenwich House New York, N. Y.

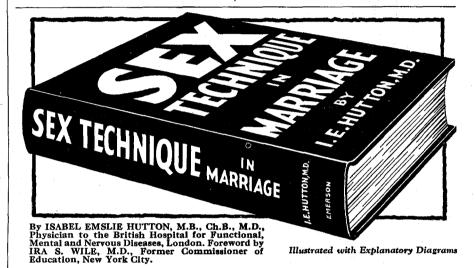
MILK PRICES

To the Editor:

Elliott Janeway ["A Fair Price for Milk," February FORUM] has done a swell job. . . .

If we feel that . . . it is time for the average citizen to learn to control industry and trade in his own interests through his representatives in government, then fair price . . . might involve a serious scaling down of debt and a revaluation of property in many industries. . . .

. BARROW LYONS New York World-Telegram New York, N. Y.



SUBJECTS INCLUDED

PRE-MARITAL PREPARATION—
Necessary Sex Knowledge — Sex Freedom Before Marriage for the Man for the Woman — Sex Instinct in Men and Women Contrasted — implications of Courtship — Hereditary Factors — The Age Factor — Indications of Sexual Incompatibility — The Neurotic Temperament in Marriage.

Reurotic Temperament in Marriage.

FIRST SEX ACT — Analysis of Sexual Intercourse — Preliminary LovePlay — Overcoming Mental Obstacles
— Pain — Early Intercourse — The
Fatigue Factor — The Husband's Part
— The Wife's Part — Methods of Sexual Stimulation — The Active vs. the
Passive Wife — Nervous Shock of
First Intercourse — Temporary Impotence — Simultaneous Climax; How
Produced.

THE SEX ORGANS — Knowledge of Male and Female Organs Essential to Both Husband and Wife — "Fitting" — Anatomy of Sex Organs — Hygiene of Sex Organs — How Fertilization Takes Place — Woman's Hygiene.

Takes Piace — Woman's Hygiene.

SEX LIFE IN MARRIAGE — The
Arts of Love — Timing — Impotence
During Marriage — Sexual Cooperation — Influence of Age, Sexual Instinct and Health — Sexual Adjustment — Sex Errors — Sexual Rhythm
— Frequency of Intercourse; Positions
in Intercourse — When Variations Are
Indicated — Sexual Starvation — The
Unsatisfied Wife — Prelude to Sex;
Love-Play — Sex Life During Pregnancy; after Childbirth.

MENSTRUATION AND THE CHANGE OF LIFE — The Hygiene of Menstruation — Sexual Activity During and After the Change of Life — The Menstrual Cycle and Conception — Normal and Abnormal Symptoms.

CURABLE CHILDLESSNESS—
Simple Causes and Their Treatment—
Conditions where Medical Treatment Is Required— Conditions where Surgical Treatment Is Indicated.

BIRTH CONTROL

THE SEX TECHNIQUE IN MAR-RIAGE is a book for husbands and wives to read together, if they wish to remain together!

ILLUSTRATED

IT comes as a startling fact to many couples who THINK they are well-informed, that they ARE in REALITY, AMAZINGLY IGNORANT OF THE SEX TECHNIQUE IN MARRIAGE. "When no trouble is taken to learn how to make sexual intercourse harmonious and happy, a variety of complications arise. Very often wives remain sexually unawakened, and therefore inclined to dislike sexual intercourse. When that happens, husbands do not experience what they long for, and are apt to be sexually starved. Neither husbands nor wives on these terms attain to harmony, and the result is nervous ill-health. . . . The cause of all this is not want of love. It is want of Knowledge." — A. H. Gray, M.A., D.D.

"FROM a very large clinical experience I have come to the conclusion that probably not one in five men knows how to perform the sexual act correctly." Many men feel bitter, in a resigned sort of way, about their "frigid wives." As a matter of fact this problem, which too often is one of "the bungling husband," frequently vanishes completely when both husband and wife know exactly what to do for each other. In THE SEX TECHNIQUE IN MARRIAGE, Dr. Hutton describes the sexual act in such detail that no one need any longer remain in in ignorance of exactly how it should be performed. In the foreword to this work Dr. Ira S. Wile declares: "A knowledge of the science of mating offers greater assurance of successful marriage."

WHILE completely frank, Dr. Hutton handles the subject with excellent taste, and, as the American Medical Association says, "with good judgment as to what constitutes general medical opinion."

SEND NO MONEY

READ FIRST; DECIDE
Mail coupon to your bookseller or to
EMERSON BOOKS, INC., Dept. 447-A 251 West 19th St., New York City
Send me "Sex Technique in Marriage" in plain wrapper marked "Personal." I will pay \$2.00 and few cents postage on delivery. I MUST BE SATISFIED or I will return book within 5 days and you will return purchase price. (I am over 21 years old.)
Name.
Address
Check here if you wish to enclose only \$2 00 with coupon, thus saving delivery charges. (Same money-back guarantee.)



SHE SAYS Please" AND Thank You"

THE alert, courteous voice of the telephone operator is known to all who use the telephone. To the little old lady in the shawl, the man in the big house on the hill, or a tiny tot of six, the words are the same, "Number, please" and "Thank you."

The Bell System appreciates your patronage and tries to deserve it. In everything

that concerns telephone service, we hope you can say: "They're nice people to do business with."

170,000 Women Are Employed by the Bell System More than half of the 315,000 employees of the Bell System are women. Their average length of service is about ten years. They are your friends and neighbors.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

