

who know Bishop Lawrence will welcome him to his wider ministry.

The Hall of Fame

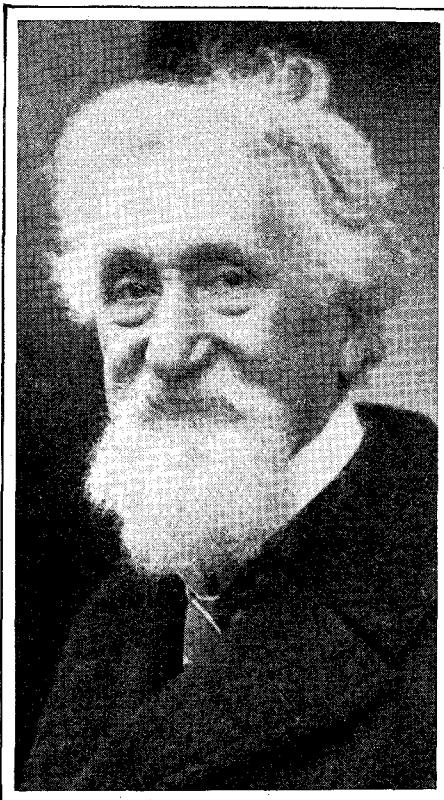
WHEN, just recently, the busts of Benjamin Franklin, Washington Irving, Admiral Farragut, Audubon the naturalist, and Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College, were unveiled in the Hall of Fame established by New York University, some surprise was expressed that these eminent Americans should not have been added to the gallery of distinguished citizens long ago. The surprise, however, was based on lack of knowledge as to the history and method of bestowing these honors. It may be worth while, therefore, to state how this bestowal of honor is actually carried on.

Something over twenty-five years ago the New York University received gifts amounting to \$250,000 to be applied to the erection of a "Hall of Fame for Great Americans." With these funds it erected a colonnade four hundred feet long, with spaces for 150 panels or tablets to bear the names of various Americans, with the restriction that the persons chosen must have been dead ten years. The names are selected by a body of one hundred and one electors. Fifty names were chosen and inscribed at the beginning; five are added every fifth year. Sixty-five have been admitted up to date, but not more than one-third of this number have as yet received the final honor of the installing of bronze busts. As we understand it, the University does not undertake to do this; the installing of the busts depends on outside initiative. Thus it happens that memorial tablets have long been placed in honor of the Americans named above, but that the busts are only now ready.

The exercises on this occasion were dignified and interesting and were attended by many eminent men. The addresses made and the letters read were remarkable for the justness with which these great Americans were described. Thus President Coolidge in his letter called Benjamin Franklin "a composite American," and amply justified that phrase by his review of Franklin's life. Another happy tribute was that of Mr. Royal Cortissoz to Mary Lyon; he said that "her own hunger for knowledge made her sensitive to the longing and the needs of other women." The Spanish Ambassador to the United States recalled Washington Irving's love of Spanish history and art and declared, "What I admire most in Irving is that he contributed to the better knowledge of my country's history."

Hudson Maxim

LIKE Nobel, who invented dynamite, Hudson Maxim, the perfecter of smokeless powder in America, who died at Lake Hopatcong, on Friday, May 6, abhorred war. Born in Maine, he lived



Keystone

Hudson Maxim, master of explosives
1853-1927

a life of extreme poverty in his youth, shared by his more distinguished brother, Hiram, who became a man of title in England. The latter invented the most destructive of machine guns, while his son devised a muffler that silences the sound of explosion in lethal weapons. One other brother, who went to war in the sixties at sixteen, was killed by a bullet through the brow in his first action. The rest of the family never rose above the surface. Mr. Maxim led the varied life of an active-minded American, and besides inventing, wrote books—one a guide to the correct writing of poetry, another on the freaks of explosives, and a third, in interview form, detailing his own career. It is an extraordinary human document, as might be expected from the story of so extraordinary a man. Nine years old before he even knew the alphabet, he was twenty-five when he graduated from the Kents Hill Seminary in Maine, yet few men lived more amply—or did more to help kill off their fellow-beings.

Benjamin Ide Wheeler

As President and President Emeritus of the University of California

The Outlook for

for twenty-eight years Benjamin Ide Wheeler, who died in Vienna on May 2, saw it grow from an enrollment of less than 2,500 to one of over 20,000 students, and from a slender institution in equipment to the position of one of the most influential universities in the country. Much of this growth was directly attributable to Dr. Wheeler's administration. He was equally valuable to the University as an inspiring teacher and as a vigorous executive.

Dr. Wheeler was a classical scholar in the full sense, caring for beauty and literary art as well as for form and philology. He studied in Germany, traveled in Greece, filled positions as instructor at Harvard and as professor at Cornell in Greek and philology, and at one time served as a professor in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

One comment passed upon him since his death has been that "he became in his own person one of the legatees of that culture which flourished in ancient Greece."

As head of one of the greatest of our State universities Dr. Wheeler was eminently successful in keeping the higher teaching out of the toils of politics. He was a fine figure in American educational life, and an illustration in his own person of both cultural and constructive qualities.

The Snyder Murder Mystery

IN the annals of crime the murder of Albert Snyder in a suburban house on the outskirts of New York on Long Island can scarcely have been surpassed for sordid baseness. All the essential facts and a multitude of unessential details in the case are publicly as well known as if the crime itself with its vile preliminaries had been committed in full view of all the world. For months before the crime was committed the wife of the victim and her paramour, a corset salesman named Gray, had discussed various means of perpetrating this murder. Evidently the initiative throughout was with the woman, but the man was a willing, though at times horrified, partner in the plot. The newspapers have recounted the whole gruesome story with sickening reiteration. And yet, though practically all the outward facts in this case are known more fully than most crimes are ever known, the Snyder case remains to all who think of it one of the profoundest of mysteries.

There are two well-recognized types of criminals. One consists of those who are criminals by profession. They have chosen to be or have otherwise become

recognized enemies of society. They have a philosophy that is more or less conscious. So far as they argue at all about their course of life, they accept and defend their position as outlaws. According to their view, the law is not of their making, and therefore places them under no obligation. Property rights are, in their eyes, simply the privileges acquired by classes of society to which they do not belong. Wealth is his who can get it; and that others have got it by the favoritism of the law is no reason, so they assume, why they should not get it by stealth or by violence. Even human life may be sacrificed to accomplish their ends, as it is sacrificed at times to accomplish the ends of the State. Such criminals are the only completely logical nullificationists. They are playing a huge game with society. Their stakes are their liberty and their lives.

There is another well-recognized type of criminals. This consists of those who are criminals by impulse. In a moment of passion or of weakness, under stress of great temptation or through the relaxation of the will, they commit some act condemned alike by the law and by their own conscience. Such are likely to be criminals but once. Their one great fall differs in kind from their other moral lapses only because the difference in degree is so great. As it is possible to understand the philosophy of the professional criminal without sharing it, so it is possible to understand without experiencing that upheaval or that sudden collapse of human nature that results in the irremediable but sporadic crime.

But what can we say or think of the sort of criminal represented by the murderers of Albert Snyder? The woman was unfaithful to her husband, who was later to become her victim; but other women have been deceivers. The man was unfaithful to his wife; but other men have been adulterers. Motherhood did not restrain the woman nor fatherhood the man from their joint treason to the home; but others have been traitors to the fundamental institution of the family and have remained supposedly respectable, or at least not social outcasts. Both sought the satisfaction of their immediate desires. In that respect they seemed not unlike many thousands of others whose minds turn most naturally to the next pleasure and follow their inclinations. It is not because they were so different from their neighbors, but so much like them, or at least like many of them, that their story has been read with absorption by the multitude. Here was no master passion like that which has welled up in the greatest tragedies. The two criminals

were not even faithful to one another, but in the trial fought each other in their efforts to escape from the toils of the law. Here was no sudden and dramatic collapse of resistance. The scheming went on for weeks that ran into months and was as much concerned with monetary gain from an insurance policy as with the desire to be rid of an encumbering husband. This brutal, inhuman murder was the product of no great emotion and no cynical philosophy, but of the pettiest, the most ignoble, kind of self-indulgence. Such acts are sometimes attributed to the primitive in man. But good as well as evil is primitive. The love of a mother for her child and the care of a father for his family were submerged in this crime, but both are as primitive as the ugliest of passions. There was nothing in this crime that can be explained by the survival of primitive traits. It was a crime of that moral degeneration that is the inevitable product of long-continued self-indulgence. Those who committed it were not insane, were not of a natural plane of intelligence below the normal. If they were not morally responsible, nobody is. Yet when Gray was asked why he did this thing he replied, "That is what I would like to know." What broke down the moral character of these two people? What creates this insensate desire for material satisfaction as the end of being? And if these two could commit such a murder, why not any of countless thousands of others?

This is the real Snyder mystery and its challenge to the standards of American life.

The One Real Question

OF referendums on the Eighteenth Amendment there have been many varieties. So far we have not seen one which dealt with the real issue before the country. Not even the most extreme opponents of prohibition have ventured to face the question fairly and squarely. They have asked people to vote for modification of the Volstead Act without defining what that modification might be. They have asked people to vote for specified degrees of alcoholic content which any steady drinker would scorn. Not one has dared to ask, even in New York or Chicago, the single query which would determine whether or not the country as a whole thought the benefits of prohibition were less than its disadvantages.

That question is, "Do you want back the old corner saloon?"

As a matter of fact, that question could be answered authoritatively only

by those who remember the corner saloon in its full flower.

Uncle Sam in Central America

YOU may not fight," is what the United States has said, in effect, to the warring factions in Nicaragua. The stopping of the civil war there marks a return to the policy of supervision which was in effect from 1912 to 1925, and which has been applied to the island republics of the Caribbean Sea. Whether it means an extension of the policy to all Central America is a question that remains to be answered.

The situation is the result of the visit of Colonel Henry L. Stimson, formerly Secretary of War, to Nicaragua as the representative of President Coolidge. His mission is a consequence of the recognition by the Department of State of the Conservative Government of President Diaz. That recognition followed upon the resignation of General Chamorro, the dictator who seized power last year from the Liberal administration then in power, and the choice by the Nicaraguan Congress of Diaz as Chief Executive. The preceding administration had been headed by President Solorzano, who won elections supervised by the United States in 1925. When he handed his resignation to the dictator, Chamorro, his authority would have passed—if the terms of the Constitution had been followed—to the Vice-President, Dr. Juan B. Sacasa. A long-standing antagonist of General Chamorro, Dr. Sacasa fled the country in fear of his life and came to the United States to plead his cause. But, it is argued, he had forfeited his Constitutional rights by his flight. Later he returned—by way of Mexico—to Central America, and with Mexican aid started a rebellion against Chamorro. That led to Chamorro's retirement and the elevation of his associate, Diaz. United States marines were despatched to protect foreign residents and property, and neutral zones were established and extended along the railway lines. Finally, the present termination of warfare was obtained by Colonel Stimson's insistence.

The program for turning this enforced truce into an enduring peace, as announced by the Department of State, includes:

Complete disarmament of both sides.

Immediate peace to permit crop planting.

Amnesty to all persons in rebellion or exile.