

## Adventures on the Plains

*TIXIER'S TRAVELS ON THE OSAGE PRAIRIES.* Edited by John Francis McDermott. Translated from the French by Albert J. Salvan. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1940. 309 pp., with index. \$3.

Reviewed by ALLAN NEVINS

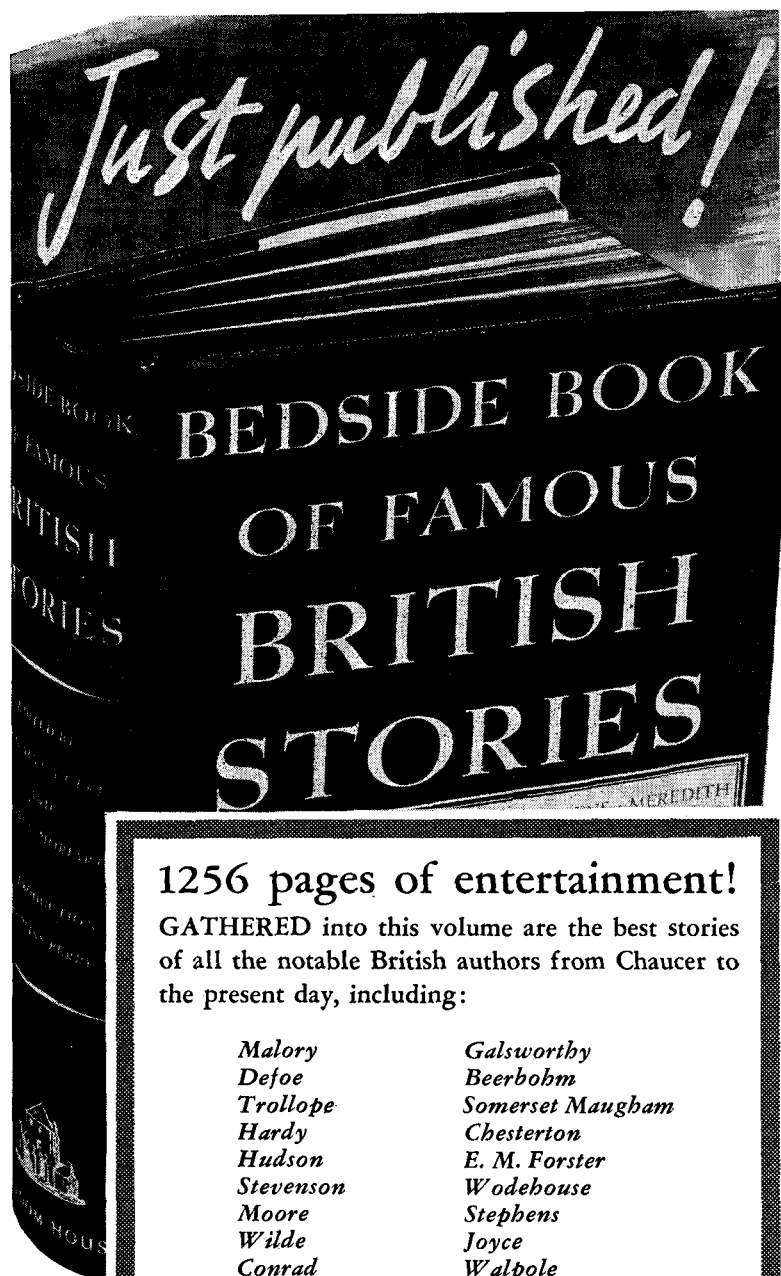
"MANY a French scalp has dried in front of the Osage wigwams," writes Victor Tixier to impress his Parisian readers. An adventurous young doctor and artist, fired no doubt by Cooper and Chateaubriand, he journeyed to our wild West in 1840 to join the Osage in their summer buffalo hunt. He looked for "new terrible thrills, to find death perhaps." Journeying from New Orleans up the Mississippi to St. Louis, he rode a pony to join the tribe, then ranging the plains of Kansas and Oklahoma, and fighting with the Pawnee. Alas, he met no hairbreadth escapes, and did not see a scalp lifted or even a grizzly slain.

But he did accumulate material for a most interesting and illuminating book, which falls into two parts. The introductory chapters give a vivid and attractive picture of the plantations of Creole Louisiana, where Tixier was overwhelmed with hospitality, and where he made many amusing observations on slavery, alligators, sugar-cultivation, steamboats, river floods, Southern diet and medicine, and not least of all, the ladies. The main body of the book then treats of the "dangerous" Osage. Tixier hunted with them, ate their bad food, inquired into their religion, watched their wardances, healed their sick, and in fact with curious eye, nose, and ear found out all about them. He was a sympathetic observer, thought the Indians "great philosophers," and deemed their life superior in some ways to that of the white race. His enthusiastic yet fairly scientific book, extremely rare in French, deserved this revival in an English translation, illustrated by his own sketches. Both editor and translator have done their work admirably.

### ANSWERS TO LITERARY QUIZ

1. Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*.
2. Shelley: *The Cloud*.
3. Milton: *Paradise Lost*.
4. Alfred Noyes: *The Highwayman*.
5. Coleridge: *The Ancient Mariner*.
6. Walter de la Mare: *Silver*.
7. Fitzgerald: *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*.
8. Longfellow: *Christus*.
9. Keats: *Endymion*.
10. Rossetti: *The Blessed Damozel*.

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## Education Bound

**SO YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE.**  
By Clarence E. Lovejoy. New York:  
Simon & Schuster. 1940. 383 pp.  
\$2.50.

**SHE'S OFF TO COLLEGE: A Girl's  
Guide to College Life.** By Gulielma  
Fell Alsop and Mary Frances Mc-  
Bride. New York: Vanguard Press.  
1940. 277 pp. \$2.50.

Reviewed by JOHN PALMER GAVIT

ANYBODY interested in colleges and college life, whether as a prospective student, the parent of one, a college officer, or for any other reason, will do well to see these two books; both of them. They should be handy in every college library; read especially by those in secondary schools who have to advise young people about going to college. They are, jointly and severally, the most intelligent, informing, and generally illuminating that I have seen in their field in a long time. Even the one purporting to be for and about the girl in college has a lot in it—beside the obvious girl-interest—that a man in a man's college could ponder profitably with reference to his own behavior in his own college life, even if he never saw a girl.

Major Clarence Earle Lovejoy, A.B. of Columbia, 1917 and honorary A.M. of Colby College, is secretary of Columbia's Alumni, was four years on the faculty of Rutgers, and writes out of a long and rich experience in college life. His book is highly commended in a Foreword by President W. H. Cowley of Hamilton College, whose own uncommonly extensive acquaintance with American colleges adds weight to his appraisal. Lovejoy deals chiefly if not entirely with the practical questions of finance confronting the would-be college student rather than with how he will behave after he becomes one. In short, it is

a book about ways and means, divided into three main parts: (1) What college going costs, (2) Selecting your college, and (3) Working your way, if need be. The last two chapters list the American colleges with a thumb-nail, bone-dry description of each, and the whole is topped off with a pretty complete bibliography. Especially useful is the discussion about scholarships and student loans. It is interesting reading, straightforward and factual but never dull; indeed it is well salted with humor and human understanding. Within its self-imposed limitations it is encyclopedic; but leaves one still facing the great problem of college life; the fact that only by experience can one know whether he has chosen the right college for him; no investigation beforehand can foretell the result of the reaction among unpredictable imponderables, chief among them your own self and the human beings with whom you co-operate and conflict in college life.

As for the other book, Dr. Alsop is college physician at Barnard; Mary Francis McBride, her colleague in this authorship, is director of the business and professional girls department in the Brooklyn Y.W.C.A. First-hand college experience speaks in every line of the book. One of the best things in it are the summaries concluding the various chapters; by themselves they are guides to a fruitful college life. From clothes, dates, and sororities to marriage or the after-college job actual flesh-and-blood girls in typical situations blunder and fail or are guided to success, with tact and sympathy. Any girl looking forward to college or already there will find light for her feet in this book; as I implied before a discerning reading discloses the heart of college life as it operates in a man's college as well as in one for girls, or for both sexes together. In fact, the operations are those of life anywhere—human beings getting along together in the world. After all, that's what college is for.

## Mighty Hunters

**DARK MEMORY.** By Jonathan Latimer. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1940. 399 pp. \$2.

Reviewed by LINTON WELLS

IF you like your hero manly; your heroine beautiful and lusty; your villain according to tradition; your subsidiary characters interesting; your locale glamorous; and your descriptions vivid and convincing; then plotless "Dark Memory" will leave pleasant memories.

The Huntley expedition invades the Belgian Congo to gather more scientific data about the gorilla and the okapi. Incidentally, to keep the record straight, Webster describes the okapi as a "peculiar mammal," but Mr. Latimer is more illuminating: he says the okapi is half giraffe, half zebra—a sort of living fossil, a living bridge to prehistoric times. This inspires me to become better acquainted with the okapi when I return to Africa.

Anyway, the membership of this expedition is elderly Professor Jarvis Huntley, whose interest in paleontology is diverted by an attack of blackwater fever; lecherous, brutish Lew Cable, angel of the *safari* with an absent wife's money; lovable Bill Lamont, a young anthropologist with a fear complex; imperturbable, tippling Mr. Palmer, the white hunter, who wishes he were twenty years younger; and a *ci-devant* newspaper man, Jay Nichols, who turns out to be a most satisfactory hero.

More dangerous to the expedition than the flora and fauna and diseases of the Congo Belge is Eve Salles. Eve is a beautiful young Canadian who suddenly appears out of nowhere and attaches herself to the Huntley group so she can get into the dank Ituri forest. Her wealthy French husband has been lost there and Eve wants to find out whether she is wife or widow, her preference being for the right to don weeds. With Eve is Herbert, an anemic, sullen Cockney watchdog, who has been engaged by an unloved husband to protect Eve's virtue. Events prove M. Salles omniscient.

The result is a raging forest fire of action, highlighted by brilliant descriptions which arouse nostalgic memories in this reviewer. The characters in all of Mr. Latimer's books are good, constructive drinkers and those in "Dark Memory" are no exception. But what mystifies me is, first, how the Huntley expedition could keep itself so well supplied with cold beer, and, secondly, how one bottle of brandy could last so long, considering all the drinking that was done by Jay and Bill and Eve when they were lost in the Ituri. If Mr. Latimer will explain, he will simplify a problem which has caused me considerable concern. After all, there is a limit to the carrying-capacity of two Citroën trucks on the roads, just as there is to native bearers in the African bush.

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