

# Letters & Life

In which books, plays, and people are discussed

Edited by LEON WHIPPLE

## Children Come Dear

By NEVA R. DEARDORFF

THE world has a new experience in store when it tries the quixotic experiment of giving all children what they need. It can be almost certainly predicted it will first have to give up indulging itself in some things that it doesn't need. One can but wonder if the White House conferees recognized the revolutionary character of their proposals. Give every child what he needs—what could be more obviously right! Indeed, what else could a child-welfare conference say? Yet someone is expected to provide, and that someone has to get the wherewithal somewhere. That somewhere is the national income flowing through channels not now routed to those charged with the duty and responsibility of spending it for the care and education of children. It is true some of the national income gets into the hands of such people but, with a few exceptions (such as the educational system and mothers' aid), the income which a person receives is not designated for that purpose and usually is not in any way adjusted to his child-caring responsibilities.

The three volumes here reviewed are from the series of some forty-five volumes, large and small, which the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection has listed for publication during this two-year period following the meeting of the Conference itself in November 1930. If the remainder of the publications are of the same type as these first three, and if either our leaders or our masses come to take them seriously, our present form of society is due to undergo a vast change. While the reports to date are almost, but not quite, silent on our economic system, all call for a realignment in the use of the country's income resources which would make Russia's look like an old-time capitalist regime.

Let us begin with the situation described in the volume on Special Education which deals with the educational needs of handicapped children. It is there brought out that according to the best estimates of the committee there are some eighty-four hundred blind children under twenty years of age who are not receiving any special education to help them offset this extreme form of physical defect. Presumably their parents and other natural custodians cannot provide. It is taken for granted that the state should educate them. Such education in the state residential schools costs about \$630 per year per pupil and in braille classes in the public schools, from \$120 to \$590 per year. If a modest average annual expenditure of \$300 on each of these chil-

dren were provided, the bill of states and local units would be \$2,520,000 a year. There are about forty-five thousand partially-seeing children who are not now but should be in sight-saving classes at an annual expense of about \$200 each. Their special education would cost about \$9,000,000 annually.

If only one-tenth of the estimated three million children with impaired hearing needed special education (only 18,212 were reported to be receiving it) in day schools and classes for the deaf, there would be about 980,000 children thus to be served at an estimated annual per capita cost of \$264 each. This would total \$258,720,000 for one year.

Of the million children with speech defects, 60,000 are receiving corrective treatment. At ten dollars a year each the special education of the remainder would require about \$9,400,000.

It is estimated that about 88,400 of the 300,000 crippled children are without special education and are in need of it. If for each one an equal expenditure of \$300 should be incurred, the bill would be \$26,520,000.

Of the 382,000 tuberculous children, the 850,000 "suspicious" cases, the 1,000,000 children with weak or damaged hearts (375,000 with serious organic heart disease) and the 6,000,000 children who are malnourished, only 40,000 are in open-window and open-air classes. If, of the other 8,192,000 children not so cared for, only a quarter, or 2,000,000, were found to need such special adaption of ordinary schooling at an average annual cost of \$169 each—the present cost of such classes—the bill would be \$338,000,000.

If the 665,000 children with behavior problems not now looked after by the elementary schools were each to receive \$50 worth of special attention or education a year, the cost would be \$33,250,000, and if the 390,000 pupils with marked mental retardation were to have a similar outlay, the cost would amount to \$19,500,000.

The total annual bill for special education, largely in day schools, would thus amount to about \$700,000,000, without allowance for any overhead expense for supervision, for preparation of teachers and so on, and without counting the additional expense necessary for cooperation from other agencies, public and private, which it was foreseen would be needed if the original expense were to be fruitful. These would doubtless carry the figure well toward a billion. If an average annual salary of \$2000 were paid the special-class teachers, this total outlay



*The White House Conference proposed to give every child what he needs—Are we prepared to pay for it?*

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE, 1930. *Addresses and Abstracts of Committee Reports.* Century. 365 pp. Price \$2 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

THE HOME AND THE CHILD: HOUSING, FURNISHINGS, MANAGEMENT, INCOME, CLOTHING. Century. 165 pp. Price \$2 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

SPECIAL EDUCATION, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE GIFTED. Century. 593 pp. Price \$4 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

would mean a corps of some 300,000 new public officials.

Every section of this report emphasized the importance of specially trained teachers so that some initial investment would be required for the training of this personnel as well as for some material equipment. And even this would not be the whole bill for the nation's handicapped children. Among these several classes of children there are some who would require the more expensive forms of full-time institutional care. And only a fraction of the children in some of the large classes were counted in our summary of the situation. A thorough job would probably cost considerably more than a billion.

Although the writers of this series of reports were anxious that the extent of these opportunities for conservation and cultivation of our human resources should be sensed by the public of the United States and that it should be clearly understood that there is no cheap and easy way to serve the handicapped child well, they did not go the length of indicating what the total cost would be or even of hinting as to the way such conservation service should be financed. There is an occasional recognition that not all local communities can provide these services. State and federal aid are mentioned in a general way once in a while.

**I**T is obvious that a program of such magnitude could not be launched in a year or brought to full operation in several years, but it must be equally clear that it will never be in operation unless someone sits down calmly and estimates its total cost and also figures out whence the income to support such a program is to come. That, I suppose, is what might be called national planning for a part of child welfare—in this case, the special education of the handicapped. But these reports do not carry us that far.

This volume also included a section on the 1,500,000 gifted children in the United States. No estimates appear as to the investment in education which might well be made in their behalf by the educational system, although some additional expense is recommended. Nothing is said of scholarships to see that no gifted child is forced out of school and college prematurely. Perhaps if we spent in well directed ways a hundred million dollars a year for a while on these children they might in return help us figure out how to get that billion to educate the handicapped!

There is not space here to do more than comment briefly on these remarkable books. Before going on to the other two—the discussion thus far concerns only the report on Special Education—it would be well to finish the comments on that volume. While its contents is uneven in quality, owing in part to the fact that knowledge about the various fields has not been uniformly cultivated and in part to the differences in the amount of ability and time that obviously went into the preparation of the several sections, this report is bound to be helpful to anyone who wishes to review the entire picture of special education provided either in the country as a whole or his community in particular. The data presented are in the main of a somewhat rough inventory type; sometimes they are pretty sketchy, even wobbly. Sometimes there is evidence of haste and none too careful editing, as when “medium” is used for “median,” but it would be a captious person indeed who would dwell on the defects of this earnest effort to set forth the broad outlines of the situation and to indicate what wisdom and experience dictate are the methods by which these children's lives can be made more valuable to themselves and to their country. Some of the sections, especially the one for the partially-seeing, is an excellent treatment of the subject for laymen—at least it was for this layman.

All of the sections in this report urge the essential economy of taking care of handicapped children properly, of educating them well and of guiding them aright. They all point to the savings in future outlay for the care of dependent, defective

and criminal adults which may reasonably be expected if the right steps are taken now. But one cannot but wonder whether we shall ever gird ourselves to take those drastic self-denying steps. Some generation sometime may have the courage to tax itself both to take proper care of the results of past neglect and failure and at the same time to undertake a genuine and thorough preventive job. Such a program will require a very great deal of money but, unless all of these people who have worked with handicapped children are dead wrong, the investment in prevention should pay so well that when in the course of a generation it gets in its work, a reduction in expenditures for remedial work will follow and the productive capacity of the country would be enlarged to the extent that ineffectives are transformed to producers. At the present there would seem to be few indeed who wish to invest in social welfare on a big enough scale to make a perceptible difference in the total community situation.

The volume of the Proceedings of the Conference itself needs little comment. The abstracts of the committee reports are similar to those published just prior to the Conference itself. The principal difference is the omission of the report of the Committee on Public Health Organization. In the foreword Secretary Wilbur of the Department of the Interior promises seventeen committee reports, but where one of the abstracts ought to be, Surgeon-General Hugh S. Cumming, the chairman of the Public Health Committee, inserts the note that it has been omitted from this volume “because in some of its aspects the report touches controversial points which require further consideration.” The report of the committee on Public Health Organization was finally released on February 6, 1932 with some modification and some minority statements. It should be carefully studied.

The principal addition to these proceedings over the preliminary volume are the speeches made at the large general meetings—thoroughly reported through many channels. The Children's Charter, that de luxe report of the Aspiration Committee, sadly needs coordination with the findings of a Ways and Means Committee. If only, however, we could take that charter seriously and literally and work up in ourselves the necessary courage to follow even a few of these aspirations, it would do worlds for business right now. The VIIth paragraph calls “For every child a dwelling-place safe, sanitary and wholesome, with reasonable provisions for privacy; free from conditions which tend to thwart his development; and a home environment harmonious and enriching.” The VIIIth specifies “For every child a school which is safe from hazards, sanitary, properly equipped, lighted and ventilated. For younger children nursery schools and kindergartens to supplement home care.” Here is a program sufficient in itself to lead us back to prosperity for at least a few years. The XVth resolution came a little nearer the problem when it said: “For every child the right to grow up in a family with an adequate standard of living and the security of a stable income as the surest safeguard against social handicaps.” But where is the court that will protect such a “right” for children? Our courts have thought the child's father's or mother's right of freedom of contract for a sub-standard wage was his most cherished safeguard.

**T**HE truth is, of course, that short of the segregation of children, they cannot be separated from their families and communities for the purposes of security and standard of living. Secretary Wilbur explains that going beyond the range of interests of the two earlier White House Conferences this one has been conceived so as to concern “all children, in their total aspects, including those social and environmental factors which are influencing modern childhood.” Yet one looks in vain in the summary of the proceedings for any references to the body of thought concerned with problems of the birthrate and to

the great field of economic institutions as they affect standards of living and family life, education and early work-experience of young people. The Secretary of the Interior promises that the conference will try to "determine where our social, educational and governmental machinery is at fault in training him to his utmost capacities." Our economic machinery for distributing income to make possible this training was not included. Even the section on milk refers to production and control and omits reference to the problem of how best to distribute milk to those unable to buy it. It certainly was of a piece with President Hoover's bad luck to have prosperity disappear just when this Conference began to issue advice about how to apply some of it to child-welfare purposes.

THE volume on *The Home and the Child* is a symposium prepared under the chairmanship of Martha Van Rensselaer of the College of Home Economics at Cornell University. It enunciates the same high standards of housing, of furnishings and equipment that one so often finds in magazines devoted to the household affairs of suburban families of substantial income. Besides setting forth that there "should be" every convenience and regard for all esthetic considerations in all homes, such fine points as "a workshop in which the men and boys of the home can putter" and vine-clad lattices and hedges to screen the clotheslines, are thrown in for good measure. The whole section on housing implies that the American family will own its own tastefully furnished home in a garden city.

Some idea of the way that this committee saw the situation appears from a couple of passages in the introduction:

(1) Money problems of the home are considered basic in family adjustments. When these problems are not wisely and co-operatively solved by the family they are destructive alike to adult and child; (2) census reports indicate that a very large percentage of families have an income inadequate for the proper rearing of children. It is desirable to determine how children will fare on such incomes and how and to what extent society must help.

Pathetically enough, the section on home management is called the "management of income." Something can be done in the management of expenditures but almost the last thing a typical family in the United States can do is to manage its income. Outside forces decide the source and the size of families' incomes for industrial workers, for farmers, for white-collar workers, even for many of those on incomes from capital. One cannot but marvel at the naivete of such a statement as this:

The management of the finances of his own particular family is of crucial importance to every child. On the wisdom of that

management depends not only his physical well being, but also his first economic education. If his family's income is too small, or if it is badly administered, he may not only suffer for want of the essentials of food, clothing, sunlight, quiet sleep, warmth in winter, recreation, medical attention and education, but he will also lack the sense of security and tranquility in his home without which no child can develop properly. For the farm child almost as much as for the town child, these essentials depend upon an adequate money income, since the farm can supply directly only part of the most urgent needs of country children.

If only our financiers and others in control of economic affairs would cooperate with the fathers and mothers of this country in working out this problem in home management so that security and tranquility would follow!

In the main it may be said that these volumes offer exceedingly good advice on many technical details of child care. They open the eyes of people to the manifold needs which each child presents if he is to be brought from infancy to adult life with all of his powers properly cultivated and with his handicaps overcome. Child welfare means not only gathering up the grossly unfortunate children for foster care, not only running a few clinics and kindergartens, it means a whole civilization that is "child-centered." That we do not have now, much as we talk about our interest in children and this being the century of the child. To give every child his due means the elimination of class and race prejudice, means the foregoing of war as an instrument of international adjustment, means the distribution of the national income by methods and according to formulae which are now almost against the law to discuss. It means the coordination of ideas which now live in wholly separate compartments in our brains—"taxation" and "social welfare," for instance—it means the frank facing of facts, the willingness to examine all ideas, even those on economics, without fear and preconceptions. It implies resources for widespread experimentation and large-scale study and observation.

Child welfare in the terms expressed in these volumes implies that master minds will devote lifetimes to reshaping life and character, that motivations of great institutions will shift to new axes, that the fruits of our highly developed industrial society will be distributed as never before. We shall need to depart from our parochialism in matters of child welfare to a conception which parallels in the breadth of its economic base, that of the organization of industry and the economic order generally.

If the recommendations of these reports are acted upon promptly we may live to see wonderful progress, or at least a big change, in our civilization. If they are neglected, the psychiatrists will have another case of the schizophrenia of a nation to study.

## Punch, Brother, Punch

By ARTHUR KELLOGG

THIS book<sup>1</sup> about Detroit, which was the beginning of Michigan, and about Hazen S. Pingree—"Potato" Pingree of the panic of '93—set thrumming an old chord of recollection of my first day as a cub correspondent in the Michigan legislature. I was taken in by my betters to meet the governor. He sat in the only chair in the room, a great upright hulk of a man in immaculate political clothes of the last years of the old century—a Prince Albert coat, a white vest and striped blue trousers. The top of his head was completely bald and the bottom supported a goatee bigger than Buffalo Bill's. He looked and was called a dude. His rosy face somehow gave promise of friendliness to a small-city reporter suddenly promoted to the most exciting assignment on his paper—until you

looked into his eyes, which were the coldest, hardest blue eyes in all that city of poker-faced politicians. There was not a thing about him by which you could understand his passionate work for municipal ownership of street railways in Detroit and regulation of the railroads which crossed Michigan on their impatient way westward; his unquestionable devotion to the common people of his city and state.

"What paper did you say? . . . Don't forget that your owner supports my railroad policy. . . . What will you have? . . . Help yourself."

On the mahogany table before him there was a collection of glasses and two large silver pitchers. One pitcher was filled with rye whiskey. The other pitcher was filled with ice-water. "What will you have?"

Two stories were current in Lansing. One was that the gov-

<sup>1</sup>A HISTORY OF THE DETROIT STREET RAILWAYS, by Graeme O'Geran. Limited edition. The Conover Press. 446 pages.



ernor drank nothing but straight whiskey and kept the ice-water for weaklings who must have a chaser. The other was that he drank nothing but ice-water and kept the whiskey because he knew what was expected of a Republican governor.

The history of Detroit has been bound up in some form of transportation. One hundred and ninety years before any of the events set down in this book, Cadillac went exploring out of Quebec and found there the place where the Indians from South, East and West passed on their way to sell furs to the French. The next year, 1701, Cadillac came with his men and built his fort. He was determined to be free of the politicians at Quebec and the crooked traders at Montreal, which meant he must grow his own food. But he had come by canoe and could bring no work animals. And so it happened that the virgin soil of his seigniority outside the stockade was broken by plows drawn by men from among his French soldiers and Canadian farmers. He was the first of a series of determined men who dealt with power and transportation realistically in the interest of the community—a list that included Pingree, Tom L. Johnson, Brand Whitlock and James Couzens.

LESS than two centuries after Cadillac built his stockade Pingree became mayor of a city of two hundred thousand people, already strongly industrial. He found it plugging along with horsecars although other cities of its size had electric trolleys. Something about it challenged this man, now rich. At fourteen he had started life as a factory hand in a New England village. He had served through the Civil War, much of it in Andersonville Prison, had gone into business and had come out the head of the Pingree Shoe Company—a typical career. He saw that a new time demanded quick, cheap transportation. His program was a three-cent fare and municipal ownership so that the profits should go not into dividends for stockholders but into better service for the citizens who paid the fares.

Pingree's first move was to bring in a second transit line to break the monopoly of the single company; his next to displace the old rattletraps with trolleys, following some experiments with storage batteries and steamers. In season and out he preached public ownership, a very crusade of it, and the people of Detroit increasingly went along with him. Tom L. Johnson came on the scene as head of the chief company, and presently he had merged the lot of them into the Detroit United Railways, which was the hero or the villain of local politics for a third of a century. That merger into a single system was the first definite step toward municipal ownership, whether or not Johnson so intended it. He at any rate realized it for already he had been bitten by the bug of public ownership, the result of buying Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* from a train "butcher," and he offered to sell out to the city at a specified price, telling Pingree privately that he would turn over his personal share of the profits. Pingree agreed and the alderman agreed, but the proposal was defeated at a referendum on the ground that the price was too high.

That was the nearest the city came to success in Pingree's time. The interesting and important thing about it was the discriminating vote on referendum. The people had been trained by Pingree's agitation; every municipal election for a generation hinged on the position which the candidates took toward municipal ownership. It came to be known as "The Thirty Years War" for it was exactly thirty-two years from the first proposal by Mayor Pingree to the final victory by Mayor Couzens.

Couzens reaped where others had sowed, but he plowed in a great crop of his own. Year after year, plan after plan for partial public ownership failed to carry. Finally this man who was more intelligent and even more determined than the D.U.R. and was on the side of "Dynamic Detroit," set going his winning strategy. As mayor he began building a city line

piecemeal and he had his eye on franchises of various parts of the D.U.R. which were shortly to expire. When it finally became clear that the people of Detroit would never consent to a renewal of the franchises, he was able to buy out the D.U.R. at a price which was approved by the voters. Detroit at long last owned all of its rapid transit. The D.U.R., hitherto cock of the roost, was shrunk to an interurban line known to all southern Michigan as the "Inter-Reuben" in the dear departed lingo of a time when farmers were called "Rubes."

Couzens began at once to organize, build, extend, experiment. He gave Detroit the largest municipally owned and operated street railway in the world. It has never cost the taxpayers a cent beyond what they pay in carfares. It has expanded to give adequate service to a city which grew from 200,000 to 1,500,000 people in forty years. It pays the second highest platform wages in the country and has no labor troubles. It pays taxes of a million dollars a year, for by some quaint twist this city taxes its own utility, and it paves between the tracks, a hangover from days when the sharp-shod car-horses, poor straining beasts, cut up the streets. It feeds its suburban terminals with its own buses and has run out its only serious competitors, the swarms of irresponsible jitneys. It pays interest on the bonds which were issued against the purchase of the D.U.R. and is retiring those bonds through a sinking fund—had wiped off a third of them in eight years. And it has done all this on a six-cent fare, which is low for a city of its class.

Mr. O'Geran lays the final success to the crew which Mayor Couzens left in charge when he moved up to the U. S. Senate. He had scoured the country for the best technical men; he found men who were lit by his flame and have worked for the public service with the singleness of purpose they might have put into big-money jobs with Ford or General Motors. A second reason is implicit in the book—the long education of the people of Detroit on municipal ownership, which came about under the law requiring a referendum vote on a new enterprise. So widespread and heated did this become that at some elections groups of reformers were found working earnestly against each other.

NOW if a hopeful reader expects that this romantic story of a city which grew like a beanstalk and of its strong men is told in this book in romantic terms he is bound to be disappointed. The author is the assistant professor of economics at Syracuse University and his book is a "dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy at the University of Michigan." Thus it is entitled to such excess baggage as paragraph headings on which the lay reader constantly barks his eyes, the full text of public documents, the names of Mr. Alderman Nobody and his associates who served on this and that committee, and footnotes which if placed end to end would reach from Cadillac Square to Ypsilanti or perhaps even to Kalamazoo.

But the romance nevertheless is embedded in the dissertation. And there is the priceless story of James Couzens, who had recently sold his Ford stock for thirty million dollars, who took a trolley of a fair spring morning when the company had raised the rate from five cents to six. He tendered a nickel. The conductor demanded another penny. Couzens refused. Thereupon conductor and motorman together threw him off, not observing until too late that a touring car alongside was filled with newspaper cameramen. It was held at the time that this spectacular bit of campaigning was an important step in Couzens' election and in the final victory for public ownership.

This book is not for sale. A presentation edition of one thousand copies has been brought out by Senator Couzens. Any reader who is interested might secure a copy by writing to Arthur J. Lacy, in the Buhl Building in Detroit, and mentioning this piece in *Survey Graphic*.

# Literature Is Scripture

By LEON WHIPPLE

"LITERATURE is an endless scripture and revelation of the life of man." With this high faith, Ludwig Lewisohn<sup>1</sup> traverses the field of American expression, not as literary historian, but as assayer "without consideration of sentiment or decorum" to separate gold from sand and to discover what of the wise and beautiful can still serve our need. He seeks with severe almost religious ardor a canon of permanence for American expression; and finds judgment clear to about 1890: for time has worn a kind of relief map of heights and valleys that can already be measured by the world scale. So judged, Fenimore Cooper, say, and most of the genteel school from Irving to Richard Watson Gilder become museum pieces; whereas Emerson and Thoreau shine on and return to power as needed teachers of the new generation. Longfellow was not a thin poet, but no poet at all for he expressed no immediate and real experience of life. He watered sentiment with faded tradition and so (as Lewisohn quotes Goethe) "He can serve us no more."

These are stern judgments with which we may not always agree, but it is salutary to have Lewisohn's keen intelligence and appreciation of form and his high moral sense make this search for the excellent that has become permanent. The fruit of his personal adventures among American letters seems to me a noble and enlightened book wherein the basic ideas are sound or challenging and the separate pages rich and instructive, clothed in a warm and pellucid style. Surely the time is ripe to stop over-praise of our literary heritage out of mere provincial defensiveness, and to forget or label minor, or list for historical purposes many works that our pride or ignorance had raised too high. I suppose I approve of Lewisohn because I agree with so many of his dicta: that Thoreau offers the best American prose; that Santayana has the most colorful style; that Mark Twain produced great picaresque folk tales and was not a thwarted satirist; that *The Education of Henry Adams* is a crucial book.

Lewisohn makes much

<sup>1</sup>EXPRESSION IN AMERICA, by Ludwig Lewisohn. Harper, 624 pp. Price \$4. postpaid of Survey Graphic.

of his Freudian interpretations, of Whitman and Poe especially, but I cannot see that our judgments on their work would be different even without resort to Vienna. Despite his generous and tolerant strivings for catholic understanding, he never quite grasps the significance of the pioneer spirit of our pastoral life. So he underrates the universal quality of Whittier who certainly was of the line of Ovid and Burns. Yet what happened to the pioneer spirit when about the transition date, 1890, the frontier was closed played a principal part in that revolution in American literature since 1900 to which Mr. Lewisohn devotes the second half of his book.

His interpretation depends on the dualism that he believes had cramped and distorted American expression from the beginning, to wit, the separation of expression from experience, of art from life. By the Puritan, life was suspected and feared and his soul became sick with ambivalence, natural desire warring with the sense of sin. His literature has scant values for a generation that has lost its religious sanctions. The genteel school likewise refused to go to life, but sought in literature a romantic escape that reflected the traditions of the English upper middle-class. They made of letters a game of invention and artifice and this concept still in part persists, despite the growth of native American realism. Mr. Lewisohn is bitter indeed at these polite gentlemen who preserved their art "clean" (that is, free from sex) but uttered no criticism of, or even mirrored, the gross materialism around their ivory towers.

Deep changes began about 1890, flowered in the vigorous and realistic literature of 1910 to 1925, and are now subsiding. To reveal the genesis and consequences of this revolution is, as Mr. Lewisohn perceives, of profound importance. Will we carry on in the mood of critical realism? or become sterile from moral defeatism? or preserve the best of our revolt in a new matrix of human values? The future in America depends on what answer we make to these questions. Mr. Lewisohn rightly devotes his gifts to the authors and moods that brought us where we are today; he is not



Courtesy Grand Central Art Galleries, New York

MARY AUSTIN  
Portrait by Louis Betts



here seeking final judgments but to decipher forces and personalities.

Why did we change after 1890? The will of God, Mr. Lewisohn says, is not the least rational of answers. And the manifestations of this will were twofold: first, the revolt of the native sons, especially of the Midwest, against the morals and the institutions of their ancestors, against ugliness, materialism, and sex hypocrisy; and second, the impetus to a new realism, a new liberalism and new forms from Continental culture. So we have Frank Crane, Norris, Upton Sinclair, Dreiser, Masters, Sinclair Lewis et al. to compare with Santayana, Huxley, Mencken, Viereck, Waldo Frank and a long list. The interaction of these two forces, with their different urges, purposes, discontents and philosophies, has never been adequately studied. They helped each other and they hindered each other; they met in Greenwich Village; one set up the Washington Square Players, the other discovered O'Neill and Susan Glaspell at Provincetown; against them later the New Humanism thundered. Together they brought freshness of vision, libertarianism, the mating of experience and expression into our literature. Seeking to interpret this ferment, Lewisohn in brilliant and illuminating chapters interweaves the new poetry and the woman poets, our recent drama, the meaning of humanism, and the search for new forms in poetry and the subjective novel.

The vigor and iconoclasm of the revolt plus the chaos of World War and its aftermath have brought disillusion and emptiness. The rebels plunged beyond the reformation of a culture and social evils towards the destruction of human values; attacking economic injustice, sex hypocrisy, religious sterility, they ended by attacking the state, the family and the spirit. They approached what Lewisohn calls moral nihilism which "in its own character is crippling and unproductive. . . . A hell of emptiness has been added to the other hells of man's experience and imagination." It is evidence of the fine justice and rigorous standards in this book that Mr. Lewisohn can give generous and discriminating praise to the manifold incarnations of the creative spirit, and yet mark its limitations. He describes "the phenomenon of the rebel who has nothing but his rebellion, no stock in trade but his resistance and contempt, a just resistance doubtless and a contempt for things contemptible but who, his liberation accomplished, his irritations projected, has neither meaning nor message nor shaping power, nor new gods nor other altars."

But he does not despair; he awaits the creation of new values and new hopes. "The time for severe and serene expression has not yet come." He repeats the view that consistently held to throughout the book is the source of its importance: "The cause lies in that universal situation of mankind which is in the last analysis a religious and metaphysical one." The literature of man is forever joined with what man makes of life.

## Of Ever-Livingness

EXPERIENCES FACING DEATH, by Mary Austin. Bobbs-Merrill. 301 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

OF all the clichés, the conventional sayings, in the patter of orthodox science, none seems to me more patently absurd than that "Nature is indifferent to the survival of the individual." For if there is anything to which "Nature" is unmistakably *not* indifferent, it is precisely that. Passion for individual survival is the one universal instinct, motive, emotion, persisting and acting automatically after every other has ceased to function. The conviction of what Mary Austin, in this extraordinary study of attitudes toward life and death, calls "ever-livingness," is the most fundamental and persistent intuitive assurance of mankind. Not only is it so to speak a law of our being now; it always was. It is inherent in our stuff and structure; in ours and those of every other living creature. Be it true or false, rejection of it, disbelief in its validity, is as abnormal as kleptomania. The burden of proof is upon those who deny.

Upon this inherency, this universal assurance of "some-

thing after death"; that it is "a link in experience rather than its inevitable end," Mary Austin predicates one of the shrewdest, most brilliantly convincing discussions of "ever-livingness as an inherent probability of consciousness" that I ever have seen. In it an uncommonly brave and honest woman, scorning that habitual cowardly reticence which commonly makes us hypocritical about our deepest thought, lays her heart bare. As she says herself, "this is a purely personal document, and the public be damned." For many weeks I have been reading and re-reading it with intent to write about it; always I have been palsied by a feeling of intrusion upon a privacy. One feels a responsibility about misconstruing or distorting so intimate a confession. It is quite impossible within these space limits even to outline its argument; nor is it desirable to do so—this is a book of uncommon worth and weight about the most important subject in the world; a book to be read entire and attentively. It stands on its own feet; take it or leave it. It is not for the casual reader, but, as the author so emphatically intimates, an affair confidential, between the author and whom it may concern.

Face-to-face with what was mistakenly diagnosed as swiftly-impending death, and surprised to find that despite unaltered reasons for disbelief in death she *feared* it; she sought the roots of this fear, and grounds for reassurance, and followed deep and far and most rewardingly the path in which the search led her. This relatively brief, compact book is the story of that pilgrimage into the mysteries of ultimate Consciousness; into the deep-self of Man, into what the Indians taught her to call the "Sacred Middle," where abide the ancient memories, the cumulative lore of the ancestors, "from sources older, more experienced than intelligence"; that "feeling-knowledge" that we commonly call intuition—ininitely wiser and more dependable than the ephemeral guessings of the "intellect." From a quite conventional Methodist beginning, she fared forth through other forms of spiritual adventure and exploration, modern and ancient; back into primitive faiths and devotions. She *practiced* them, distilling for herself their profound naive significance; finding for one thing that "to get good out of a religion you do not have to believe it but only to use it." As Jesus put it, you have to *do* it before you can understand. "Belief is not belief," says Mrs. Austin, "unless one is changed by it; unless it gives rise to fresh surmises, new approaches. . . . It can be in all the books in the world and not be yours until it has been experienced, until it has been taken into the deep-self and originated an activity there."

Mrs. Austin, herself profoundly versed in folk-lore, especially of the Indians among whom at Santa Fé she is neighbor and friend, believes, that the secret of these deep things lies open to discerning study (never yet attempted) in the subjective and unconscious life of man and even of animals; that the further adventure of the soul can be fore-sensed as a man's future can be derived from his adolescence. And this is written broad through the whole history of mankind in his folk-lore, his unconscious dramatization through the ages in universal faith, story and imagery, of things beyond the scope of mere intellect—spiritually discerned.

JOHN PALMER GAVIT

## The Plan Must Suit the People

AMERICA FACES THE FUTURE, by Charles A. Beard and others. Houghton Mifflin. 416 pp. Price \$3 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

IN spite of my antipathy toward "omnibus" volumes it must be admitted that Mr. Beard has once more demonstrated his editorial skill: he appears to know how to construct a semblance of unity from a mass of individual contributions; and, he certainly possesses the "nose for news" as well as for persons who speak with a certain authority. But, after so much tribute gladly bestowed upon a master editor it still seems to me that when fifteen separate authors find their essays published together because they happen to deal approximately with the same problem the result is inherently a special edition

of a journal and not a volume of reference. All that may be added on behalf of my bias is to pray that more of the publishers choose Mr. Beard as their editor.

If this combination of views has generalized unity, its essence may be expressed: "Planning within the Capitalistic System, à la America, and not à la Soviet Russia." Mr. Beard seems to feel that the Russians have "stolen the picture" by endowing the term "planning" with the significance of a mystical slogan. "There is nothing Russian about its origin," says Mr. Beard with considerable heat. "Indeed, planning of economy was anathema to the Bolsheviks until, facing the task of feeding enraged multitudes, they laid aside Marx, took up Frederick Winslow Taylor, and borrowed foreign technology to save their political skins" (page 118). Mr. Beard continues: "To talk of forcing such an iron regime of despotism on the citizens of the United States is to betray a woeful ignorance of their history, their traditions, their ideals, and their wilful way of life. . . . To expect dictators who have never before managed anything as complicated as a chicken farm to manage a vast technological system of industry with success is to expect the impossible, even though evangelistic fervor be enlisted." Mr. Beard, who knows American history, asks for an economic plan which is Made in America. Indeed, he provides the outlines for precisely such a plan, beginning with a national economic council and including a board of strategy and planning, a system of syndicated corporations, and a means for carrying the plan as a whole into execution.

The two elements that seem of unique value are, first Mr. Beard's use of the cultural perspective, and second, his projection of the skeleton of an actual plan. He, unlike many others, recognizes that economic reasoning, if it is to remain realistic, must be accompanied by cultural logic. Analogies drawn between two cultural systems existing on different levels of economic time are not merely without logical merit but lead to distortions and deceptions of a most subtle variety. Thus, the planning equation of Russia, standing at the threshold of technological industrial production, and that of America, standing near the end of one phase of that process, are incommensurable. Our plan, must, to be workable, proceed from our objective situation and must utilize the ways of our folk. At the same time, it does not appear to me to be necessary to minimize the Russian performance or to speak of it as a transfer from Marx to Taylor. The technological-industrial world grows toward a pattern and Russia will take its place within that configuration and much sooner than we may now be able to forecast; the Russian and the American equations of economic planning will eventually coalesce, and if the technological-industrial system is to endure, the final equation will be one involving world perspectives. In short, my position is that Russian and American planning stand far apart both as problem and as reflection, and are at present scarcely comparable, but that they will ultimately need to be considered as parts of the same whole—and we may as well begin to accustom ourselves to this problem-as-a-whole emergence.

One wishes that Editor Beard had enlisted collaborators who might have elaborated and given more substance to his two major points; the result would have been something fresh and invigorating. The present volume is fairly dull, except when Mr. Beard is on the stage. Its first part is arbitrarily called "the new intellectual and moral climate" and contains criticisms, analyses, descriptions of cause, et cetera, only two of which seem to me to possess cogency and exceptional merit, namely those of President Nicholas Murray Butler and Andre Maurois. The second part proceeds under the slightly immodest title of "blueprints for a planned economy"; here one encounters material of tougher fibre and a diminution of those beguiling generalizations which have already reduced planning discussions to the level of evangelistic sermons. One finds, for example, Mr. Beard's general outline of a plan, the so-

called Swope Plan, the Chamber of Commerce Plan, the American Federation of Labor Plan, the plans of the LaFollette brothers, et cetera. It is, perhaps, slightly misleading to call all of these projections plans, as though any paper formulation looking toward integration in industry constituted a plan. Reasoning of this sort is not merely too easy but is likely to precipitate an eventual mood which may become a barrier to the real planning program.

In summary one is compelled to insist that this work represents another preliminary approach to the economic crisis. The real problem, both as philosophy and as technics, still confronts us, and we shall need to draw heavily, in the future, upon Mr. Beard's realistic insights, his fine logic, and his reassuring enthusiasm.

EDUARD C. LINDEMAN

*New York School of Social Work*

## Mad Year

1919, by John Dos Passos. Harcourt, Brace. 472 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

NO one but John Dos Passos should review this book. In it he has isolated one mad year out of American history and illuminated that year with the red light of numberless bonfires and beacons, and with a dozen revolving searchlights.

The fires blaze and die. Faces stand out clearly for an instant, then fade into darkness.

The searchlights wheel and cross and mingle. Their pitiless glare sweeps over steeples and garbage cans, boulevards and alleys, temples and brothels.

A newsreel of catchwords, headlines and slogans flickers intermittently. A camera clicks steadily through the year, recording a series of clear-cut, vivid photographs.

There is an occasional condensed and masterly biography of a great man whose life profoundly influenced that mad year.

It is impossible to read or review it dispassionately. You will either hate it or live it as you read: delirium, aspiration, hope, defeat, lust, love, disillusionment.

This is exhausting. It is equally exhausting to try to follow the story. For there is a story, woven of those moving streams of light that are really a series of personalities.

But the story isn't what you keep afterwards. You keep a brilliant medley of heat and glare and color. Isolated sentences stand out clearly in your mind:

They'd all be decent if they had a chance. We'd be just like them if we hadn't been lucky enough to be born of decent families in small prosperous American towns. . . .

From down towards the Battery came the sound of a military band playing "Keep the Home Fires . . . Burning." It was hard to keep from walking in step to the music. . . .

But damn it, they've got all the machine guns in the world, all the printing presses, lineotypes, tickerribbon, curling irons, plush, horses, Ritz, we—you—I? barehands, a few songs, not very good songs, *plutot le geste proletaire*. . . .

Out of the confusion in which you close the book ideas rise and take orderly place. You have relived a fever dream that you once shared and had almost forgotten. Old prophecies raise their heads. . . . Old hopes that we thought were dead, smothered in a surfeit of false prosperity or kicked to death in alleys . . . old songs. . . .

But as I said at the beginning, it defies the stereotyped technique of orderly paragraphs. No one but John Dos Passos should review it.

HELEN CODY BAKER

*Council of Social Agencies, Chicago*

## Vision of a New Day

SUCCESSFUL LIVING IN THIS MACHINE AGE, by Edward A. Filene. Simon & Schuster. 274 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

THE thesis of this book is that the technique of mass production is the technique of successful living in the Machine Age—"the age in which the prosperity of each of us depends so vitally upon the prosperity of all." As a starting point, however, mass production is carefully defined as "production for the masses," which the author holds "is not standardizing human life," but rather "liberating the masses . . . from the strug-

gle for mere existence and enabling them, for the first time in human history, to give their attention to more distinctly human problems."

This thesis may seem to cover a good deal of territory, but the author tackles his subject, chapter by chapter, in workmanlike, effective fashion. With a style that is beautifully clear and succinct, Mr. Filene (and his collaborator, Charles W. Wood) shows how mass production, as he defines it, would affect the many phases of modern life. For instance, on the much discussed problem of unemployment, the author says:

It seems to me, then, that wise business men, instead of wasting their energy in a die-hard campaign against the "dole," will face the facts, accept some sort of state unemployment insurance as inevitable, and bend their efforts toward securing legislation designed to do the greatest amount of good and the least amount of harm. My suggestion is that they work for an unemployment insurance act which will give employers the option of taking out state insurance or of developing an insurance system in their own establishments which will grant benefits equal in every way to those granted by the state. . . . The tendency then, we may be sure, would be for employers, as fast as they woke up to the real situation, to discard the state insurance and undertake the responsibility themselves. And that is about all that is needed for a solution of the unemployment problem. When all employers wake up and accept their responsibility, the problem will be solved. And those who do not wake up will cease to be employers.

There are equally forthright discussions of mass production and housing, the future of agriculture and other social-economic problems.

Toward the end of the book are these significant words:

I am not moralizing. I am not idealizing. I am not suggesting that business men must rise above temptations, or that they should give more heed to the rights of humanity. I am suggesting simply that they can not be successful in this new world by planning their business with reference to a world that has passed away. They need not bother with the rights of humanity, but they must bother with its buying power. They may have any ideas they wish as to what people ought to be, but if they are to do any business, they must do it with people as they are. . . . Business can serve the masses. It can employ the masses and, if it understands the nature of the new social set-up, it can sell to the masses all that it employs the masses to create.

I have no doubt that by now the reader has become disgusted with this uncritical review. It is, you are saying, only a mass (you see, the virus has attacked my vocabulary!) of quotations without comment. It is my contention that basically there is nothing in the book to criticize. Which is a cold way of saying that few can read it without succumbing to its logic and its persuasiveness with enthusiasm.

There is one glaring misstatement. Mr. Filene says: "I am a business man, not a philosopher." Mr. Filene is both a successful business man and a profound philosopher. It may easily be that in this book we have recorded, for the first time, a clarified vision of what we would like to believe is a new day in industry.

ERNEST G. DRAPER

New York City

## Trotsky as Historian

THE HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. Volume I: The Overthrow of Tsarism, by Leon Trotsky. Translated by Max Eastman. Simon and Schuster. 522 pp. Price \$4 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

WHETHER the exile of Trotsky was a matter of political expediency or not, his loss to Soviet Russia as a writer is irremediable. There is absolutely no one among his contemporaries to combine so happily brilliance with erudition, keen analysis with grace of style, devastating wit with urbanity. In the past he was rivaled perhaps by Alexander Herzen and by George Plekhanov—in his younger days. What a pity that Trotsky is not at home, within the Party, if only in the role of appraiser and alert critic, as a relief from the unimaginative Hosannah howlers!

The first volume of Trotsky's History covers the earlier period of the Revolution, till the end of June, that is to say, the preludial stages of the real Revolution. Although this

period has been adequately discussed by other writers, Trotsky contributes a number of valuable points. Above all he makes one visualize the growth of mass consciousness, both at the front and in the rear. It becomes conclusively evident that only Lenin and his few, all too few, adherents had from the beginning a correct understanding of the state of affairs. Trotsky emphasizes, perhaps a bit chucklingly, the loneliness of Lenin in those early days when his directness and intransigence frightened and alienated Kamenev, Zinoviev, Stalin, Rykov and other pillars. Lenin and Trotsky were the only prominent revolutionists to advocate from the start the seizure of power by the Soviets. They were pooh-poohed and anathematized as madmen and demagogues and anarchists and German agents, not only by bourgeois politicians and journalists but by the overwhelming majority of the Soviets, the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionists. These theoreticians quibbled and fussed about historical precedents and party doctrines and overlooked the elephant—the impatiently rising masses.

To his mastery in marshalling pertinent facts and lending them a convex clarity, Trotsky adds an enviable dexterity in dialectic reasoning. Marxian throughout, he is free from the deadly doctrinairism of Kautsky and the Mensheviks. If facts disagree with the Marx-Engels formula of seventy-five years ago, Trotsky is not constrained to paraphrase a certain pope and exclaim, "So much the worse for the facts!" His Marxism is as flexible as a rapier. He has no difficulty in reconciling economic determinism with the emergence of such personalities as Lenin. As to historical laws and precedents, he adroitly subjects them to the "universal law of unevenness," or the law of "combined development." Thus he explains the peculiarities in Russia's revolutionary process by the combination of such paradoxes as the general backwardness of the country with an unprecedented swiftness in the growth of big industries. The overthrow of a medieval autocracy was not followed, as in other countries, by the rise of middle-class democracy, but it precipitated a leap into Sovietism.

Trotsky avoids direct mention of his own part in the events; he speaks of himself in the third person, quoting other writers, most often his enemies. He will find this method far more difficult to follow in the subsequent volumes. One hopes, indeed, that he will not permit undue modesty to push into the background his highly significant personality.

University of California

ALEXANDER KAUN

## Whom We Delight to Honor

JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, by Silas Bent. Vanguard Press. 354 pp. Price \$4.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

ATHENIANS wearied of hearing Aristides called The Just. And the lyric, sometimes almost dithyrambic, chorus in praise of Oliver Wendell Holmes stirs up a little sympathy with the ancient Greeks. Yet no one wants to have the jurist banished, and all hope he will live among us for as many years as he wishes to enjoy the "little finishing canter before coming to a standstill—to hear the kind voice of friends." It is evidence of soundness at the core of America that so large a number delight to honor a man who stands eminently for spiritual rather than for the material values which Americans are said to exalt.

Mr. Bent's biography is timely. Though it leaves the reader to pick out nuggets of events from the bulky matrix of descriptions of mental and moral qualities, it is interesting. The reader might be happier with a thinner volume and different proportions of narrative and praise. A lawyer is likely to have his own thought about the mental processes of a judge formulating opinions in cases, and a layman does not in the least care what the processes are.

That Oliver Wendell Holmes should find the world a place of struggle requiring the philosophy of tough-mindedness, which his friend William James preached, speaks eloquently. If he, born into a group of Back Bay Bostonians, who were powerful enough to pluck and bestow where they would the plums of fortune, found struggle the essential thing of experience, what of those less fortunately placed? Yet the career of Holmes, the energies he exercised, the things



he chose to strive for, show him the kind of an aristocrat that enriches the nation. Would that we had more like him!

A lawyer's life does not lend itself to biography. Holmes himself was well aware of this when he said, "Since 1865 there hasn't been any biographical detail." The life of a lawyer, whether of the bar or the bench, is a life of the mind (of sorts), and on the whole rather a good sort. It has no events of its own of interest to the general reader. If the lawyer has taken part in the trials of people with picturesque events the color of their lives may be brushed on a canvas of what purports to be his life. After the Civil War, in which Holmes bore himself so gallantly that the reader feels a vicarious pride in being of the same nation, the career of the much-loved Justice was not vivid. Its coloring was rich, but one hard to present in words. Mr. Bent had a difficult task. Many will be grateful to him for undertaking it and performing it so well.

HASTINGS LYON

New York City

## Plans Aplenty

A BASIS FOR STABILITY, by Samuel Crowther in collaboration with others. Little, Brown. 360 pp. Price \$3.  
 INVESTING IN WAGES—A plan for eliminating the lean years, by Albert L. Deane and Henry Kittredge Norton. Macmillan. 155 pp. Price \$1.75.  
 JOBS, MACHINES, AND CAPITALISM, by Arthur Dahlberg. Macmillan. 244 pp. Price \$3.  
 NEW ROADS TO PROSPERITY, by Paul M. Mazur. Viking Press. 194 pp. Price \$2.  
 THE OLNEY REDMOND PLAN, by Olney Redmond. Published by the author. 287 pp. Price \$2.  
 PATHWAYS BACK TO PROSPERITY, by Charles Whiting Baker. Funk & Wagnalls. 351 pp. Price \$2.50.  
 THE SWOPE PLAN, by Gerard Swope. Edited by Frederick J. George. Business Bureau. 221 pp. Price \$3.50.  
 TOMORROW'S ROUTE, A Critical Analysis of the Swope Plan, by John R. Hall. Price 20c.  
 POVERTY IN PLenty, by J. A. Hobson. Macmillan. 92 pp. Price \$1.25.  
 BRITISH TRADE AND INDUSTRY: PAST AND FUTURE, by G. D. H. Cole. Macmillan. 466 pp. Price \$5.  
 POOR OLD COMPETITION, by Stuart Chase. League of Industrial Democracy. 36 pp. Price 10c.  
 THE ROAD AHEAD, by Harry Laidler. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 86 pp. Price \$1.  
 THE PARADOX OF PLENTY, by Harper Leech. McGraw-Hill. 203 pp. Price \$2.50.

A FLOOD of literature has been introduced upon economic planning. It seems that every business man with a big idea and a few hundred dollars will get his planning book published even though commercial publishers hesitate to handle it. A survey, therefore, of the literature in the field necessarily covers many books and a wide range of ideas.

Taken as a whole the literature indicates great confusion. One writer blames overproduction; another underconsumption; one writer argues that there has been too much government interference, another argues that there has been too little. Opposing the argument that we have experienced a too rapid technological advance, we find the demand for increased industrial efficiency. Over-saving is blamed for the depression by some, whereas others tell us that we are suffering the consequence of a spree of money-spending. Some argue that the depression is caused by unwise credit expansion, while others tell us that credit contraction produced the depression. Some tell us that the system as a whole is fundamentally sound; others say that we cannot meet our basic problems until a new social order is ushered in. In fact there is literature to support anybody's theory for the cause of the present business depression and enough different and contradictory plans to satisfy any eccentric advocate of reform.

Mr. Crowther's book, *A Basis for Stability*, is a result of collaboration with twenty-one leaders in representative American industries, including Henry Ford, Myron C. Taylor, Martin J. Insull, and Richard F. Whitney, each discussing the problems of his industry. It can hardly be maintained that this book makes any significant contribution to current thought. Mr. Crowther looks upon the industrial world and sees that it is fundamentally good; reform or improve our system of credit and our troubles will disappear.

*Investing in Wages*, by Albert L. Deane and Henry Kittredge Norton, suggests a variant of unemployment insurance. Under a federal statute, employers or workers would contribute 1 per cent of payroll to a fund, which would be used to pay half-time wages of the idle-time of workers not fully employed. Business men would notify a state board of the number of men

required for each succeeding week. If the employer's demand for labor was 10 per cent of the total demand, he would be assigned 10 per cent of supply to divide the work between them.

Mr. Dahlberg, in *Jobs, Machines, and Capitalism*, has a very simple remedy. It would require only one law. With certain minor exceptions he would compel all business and industrial enterprises to operate only four hours a day, thus increasing the scarcity of labor, the wages of labor, decrease the return of ownership, the funds for new investments, increase the efficiency of industry, and stabilize the purchasing power of the masses.

Paul M. Mazur in *New Roads to Prosperity* urges man to look within himself and not at the system for the explanation of the present depression and for a method of reconstruction. Reluctantly he admits the need for some sort of governmental control and suggests a National Economic Council to conduct economic research and publish opinions.

Olney Redmond, a successful business man, would establish a board whose function would be to create jobs as rapidly as technological change and business fluctuation produces unemployment. The immediate step would be a federal government issue of four billion dollars in bonds for public works, the bonds to be retired by "tolls to be charged on the Pullman-Progress-Prosperity-Express Boulevards," etc.

Charles Whiting Baker's book, *Pathways Back to Prosperity*, advocates unemployment insurance, bimetalism, taxes on liquor and beer, decentralization of industry, and the loosening of credit.

THE Swope Plan by Gerard Swope provides for compulsory membership of businesses hiring fifty or more workers in trade associations; and compulsory disability, life, and unemployment insurance for workers. Essentially each industry becomes quasi-autonomous; the individual business is made subject to the rules of the trade association to which it belongs. Questions that arise with respect to the plan are many. What about plants with less than fifty employees? In many cases the output of these plants can disturb the market seriously. How would the plan work in a market where goods are sold on the basis of competitive advertising and salesmanship? How would the plan work if technological change seriously threatened the welfare of certain members of a trade association who are not in a position to scrap existing production methods? If trade associations attempt to assign quotas of production to the manufacturer, on what basis are they to be assigned? How will the manufacturers, as members of their trade associations, and retailers, as members of their particular association, and the interest of those outside of both associations, iron out their differences?

It would seem that the Swope Plan will either be meaningless or it will have to develop into a widespread planned economy. This calls for government action. The role of the government under Mr. Swope's plan is usually described by the word supervision. Quite obviously this supervision will have to be something more than mere "looking over by the government." The plan really advocates coercion in the form of a broom-handle, but the problems suggest that to attain the ends he has in mind, the plan will need later either a sledge hammer or an axe.

*Tomorrow's Route* by John R. Hall criticizes the Swope Plan because it violates the American principle of free enterprise, and would require a change in the constitution. Mr. Hall would stabilize business by having corporations at their own volition extend the reserves for the profits to include wages.

Our economic problems, according to J. A. Hobson in his *Poverty in Plenty*, are due to the injustice of the distribution of income between individuals, classes, and nations; neither personal costs, nor efforts, nor needs, nor stimulus to efficient performance govern the division. Correct the inequities under the modern system of capitalism and you will alleviate the problems of stoppage.

Cole's book, *British Trade and Industry: Past and Future*, traces the growth of British trade and industry from about 1700 to the middle of 1931. As background and comparative material much information is given about other countries. By implication, the whole treatment is an argument for the neces-

sity of planning. Specifically he concludes that the planlessness of the capitalistic development before the War was responsible for the recurring depressions which marred the economic life of the world, and that after the War, planlessness has brought about conditions so serious, that capitalism will be unable to set things right again. So ultimately the world must turn to socialism to get a workable plan. His earlier book, *The Next Ten Years in British Social and Economic Policy*, represents the author's idea of what should be done in Great Britain.

Poor Old Competition by Stuart Chase is a pamphlet with thirty-one pages (net) of facts and comments about competition written in pungent style. If you are one of those who still believe in free competition don't read it. If you do, every time you think of it you'll reach for an aspirin tablet.

In *The Road Ahead* Harry W. Laidler gives us a primer for children of from ten to fourteen years on the topic of socialism. This is a charming little book full of thoughts for those who are beginning to wonder what the machine is doing to our society, whether such persons be children or adults. Mr. Laidler knows how to write a language which is both accurate and popular; his illustrations are picturesque and close to the experience of the reader. This book frankly meets the common charges leveled at socialism and answers them in a tone of sincerity and reason that is very convincing. Perhaps, also, it will raise some serious doubts in the minds of a few readers as to how far social planning is possible in a private profit-seeking society.

The Paradox of Plenty suggests that all the above discussion on planning is somewhat aside from the point. Mr. Leech believes that the widespread use of cheap electric energy is about to usher in a new, different world with a social and political life as unlike the present as the present capitalistic world is unlike feudalism. In this new world there will be universal prosperity, peace, and plenty and a new security and freedom for the individual. This new world, presumably, will come about through natural adaptation. But such was the faith of the early prophets who extolled the virtue of the incoming machine and steam-power.

WILLARD E. ATKINS

New York University

## What Chance Have Women?

THE BIOLOGICAL TRAGEDY OF WOMAN, by Anton Nemilov, translated from the Russian by Stephanie Ofental. Covici Friede. 220 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

THE ART OF BEING A WOMAN, by Olga Knopf. Little Brown. 307 pp. Price \$3 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

THESE books deal with the ever-renewing problem of women from the standpoint of two modern sciences, biology and psychology. Both alike stress her handicaps. For the rest, no two books could be more different.

Dr. Nemilov, writing from Soviet Russia, traces the physical life of woman from the cradle to the grave and finds in it, after the first years of childhood, just an unrelieved and inescapable tragedy. His conception of tragedy seems to be anything that prevents a woman from living as he thinks she wants to, namely like a man. He does not consider that woman's peculiar biological structure may coincide with an essential difference in nature, nor does the fact that many women think themselves happy in their fate mitigate the blackness, for that is only the illusion by which nature fools them. His really extensive biological scholarship is all mobilized in the service of such a sensationally lurid story of physiological bondage that one can hardly believe he is quite serious. He treats woman as if she were a man burdened by a biological liability, but in every other respect man's equal and indeed identical with him.

DR. KNOPF agrees to this extent. She says: "The psychological differences of the two sexes are entirely artificial. This book will try to prove without qualification that there are no natural or inborn differences between the two sexes." Even "the physiological differences between the two sexes are by no means as great as they are commonly supposed to be . . . differences that play no direct part in the development of character." The determining factor in making women different from men is the attitude of society. Ours is a patriarchal civilization, men are regarded as superior, and from birth girls are considered and consider themselves as inferior.

Indeed, "in our present culture we may almost call it an organic imperfection to be born a woman." And as Dr. Knopf follows Adler in taking superiority as the goal of everyone under all circumstances, the importance of this social attitude as a handicap to women cannot be overrated. "We must state once and for all that at no time and in no way in our own culture have women had the same opportunities as men." Even if the opportunity seemed to be open, there was always the damaging reservation about her capacity.

Dr. Knopf's book is a careful application of Adlerian psychology to women. All the Adlerian mechanisms for the attainment of a false sense of prestige are astutely worked out in the major situations of a woman's life. A strong common-sense makes this book useful in showing up neurotic power manifestations in the camouflaged forms of general feminine experience. Courage, a real liking to be a woman (and on Dr. Knopf's terms it would take considerable courage for that!) and an ability to cooperate are the remedies which she suggests. And these though good, seem a little thin and uninspiring as a way out. There are many nuggets of real wisdom throughout. But it is my belief that no book on woman will be satisfying unless it is based on a discrimination and valuation of that which in woman is specifically feminine.

New York City

ELEANOR BERTINE, M.D.

## Doctor's Choice

HOSPITAL, by Rhoda Truax. Dutton. 312 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of Survey Graphic.

"HOSPITAL" is the heroine of this story—not merely the actual interconnected group of buildings on a hill where Steele and Alfred worked and Delia's mother was a patient, but the glamor of the ideal which proved both brighter and safer for Steele than marriage to the woman he loved. The two, he believed, were not compatible. His friend Pete married pretty little Thelma from Alabama, and when the prized hospital appointment was within his reach he turned shamefacedly away because Thelma was lonely without her folks, didn't like to have him called away nights, and wanted to go back to the town where Pete could take over the safely remunerative, if prosaic, practice of her uncle. Though in time he came to realize that Pete had married Thelma because he was that kind of a person, Steele refused to envisage for himself this compromise or any compromise, in fact; life with Delia would have been very different in quality from the kind of kindergarten atmosphere that Thelma imposed on her environment.

Miss Truax has given for the small self-bounded world of a hospital the kind of inside picture that Sinclair Lewis drew in another field of medical service in *Arrowsmith*, with the same sort of conflict of ideal and actual, of personalities, and the striving for professional integrity. But her book is not derivative. It is both honest and individual. I know of nothing else in fiction that has caught so exactly that sense of hushed footfalls and pervasive smells, that mixture of callousness and kindness (and perhaps above all cleanliness!) which is a hospital. There is one description of an operation which—believe it or not—is so engrossing as to be entirely pleasant. The characters—nurses, doctors, social workers, patients and visitors, seem to me to ring true. Beyond that there is the suspense of a good story. Whatever the Delias think, no hospital executive could fail to wish that more Steeles were around to be affixed firmly to the staff.

MARY ROSS

## BOOKSHELF

Books may be obtained at the prices given, postpaid of Survey Graphic

THE SHADOW OF THE POPE, by Michael Williams. Whittlesey House. 329 pp. Price \$3.

A RUNNING record of anti-Catholic propaganda, centering, of course, about the Ku Klux Klan and the Hoover-Smith presidential campaign. Profusely illustrated with facsimiles of Klan and other literature. Mr. Williams is editor of *The Commonweal*.

JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES, by Shirley Jackson Case. University of Chicago Press. 382 pp. Price \$3.

THE third of a trilogy on Jesus by this author. The first dealt with the historicity of Jesus; the second with his bi-

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ography; and this one tells what has been done to him since his death, by his followers. Critical, exact, historical, and not easy to read.

LOOKING FORWARD, by Nicolas Murray Butler. Scribner. 393 pp. Price \$2.

DR. BUTLER is probably the outstanding American exponent of international cooperation and brotherhood. This theme runs through the majority of the addresses gathered in this volume. All are thought-provoking, scholarly, forceful pronouncements upon international affairs or economic, social, or political problems. These papers eminently testify to Dr. Butler's erudition, his interest in world affairs, and his ability as a constructive thinker.

PAST YEARS, by Sir Oliver Lodge. Macmillan. Price \$3.50.

THE many who think of Lodge as a rather gullible psychic researcher, and the few who know him also as a physicist of the first rank and one of the forerunners of modern radio, will alike find much to interest them even in this rather badly written account of his not very exciting life. A great popularizer of science, Lodge has no particular literary facility, but despite this a certain quaint and touching quality emerges in his book. The short chapter, Scientific Retrospect, is of particular interest, and there are numerous sidelights valuable to the sociologist, the psychologist, and the historian, as well as to the physicist and the student of so-called psychic phenomena.

JONATHAN EDWARDS, by Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr. Harpers. 225 pp. Price \$2.50.

VERY few Americans know anything about Edwards other than his insistence upon a literal fiery hell. Yet, he appears to have made a greater cultural contribution to our life than any other Colonial American, with the possible exception of Franklin. Mr. McGiffert characterizes him as an earlier William James. Evangelist he was, and pastor, and teacher, and scholar. Social worker, too—since he was chiefly responsible for the cessation of the intolerable exploitation of the Berkshire Hills Indians. But above all, he was interested in reducing the case material of his parish to ordered philosophy. An interesting passage deals with Edwards' efforts to make reason and logic out of the theological excesses of his day. McGiffert, fortunately, is not too rigidly historical. Better read this if you like biography and history.

## RADIUM

(Continued from page 140)

news that the "five women doomed to die" had outlived the prophesy. Some of the accounts, however, implied that the radium cases were nothing more than a fraudulent scheme to get money from the radium company.

The end of the year found me very much interested in writing. As I had only a grammar-school education, I felt the need of pursuing some studies in English. I could not go to school, and so the home study courses at Columbia University seemed just the thing to fill my needs and I was accepted as a student in a college preparatory department.

In the fall Mrs. McDonald died. I went to her home to offer my sympathies to her family. Quinta was the second in the family to die with radium poisoning. A third sister, Mrs. Larice, also, a sufferer from the strange malady, sat in a state of collapse in an easy chair among the mourners. I returned once more to the rest home in Caldwell, to find forgetfulness and to continue my studies.

For a time I succeeded in losing myself entirely in my lessons and my writing. A friend, a writer, suggested that the story of my experience would furnish good material for a book. It would mean a great deal of work, I knew, to attempt a book, but keeping occupied has been very helpful in my long illness. I finished my work in English in seven months, and I had completed my other courses and written the first draft of my book at the end of the year.

But there were more difficulties ahead. My left knee lost most of the little motion still remaining. An accident, caused

(In answering advertisements please mention THE SURVEY)



by the weakness of the joint, sent me to the hospital for many, many months. I was discouraged in having a new problem to deal with. While my physical condition was quite bad, weakened nerves exaggerated all my troubles. The pleasant environment of the Orthopaedic Hospital in Orange did much to alleviate my suffering. Occupational therapy in the mornings was a happy time. There were games for the youngsters. The older boys and girls and the adults made reed baskets, smoking stands, serving trays and footstools. For those who preferred needlework, there were the Currier and Ives prints. I did one of these prints called American Homestead—Spring. In my dejection of spirit I tried so hard to keep up my work of forming the little French knots which represented the blossoms on the trees. Often I failed and felt that I might never finish the simple task. I finally succeeded in finishing the print, and my efforts were well rewarded: the profound depression from which I had been suffering was relieved.

When Dr. Humphries of the Orange Orthopaedic Hospital returned from his vacation in September I expected that he would remove the plaster cast from my leg. He deferred the procedure, however, and then I learned that I was not to leave the hospital at that time. The brace which I knew had been ordered for me was not made for walking as I had expected. A lump came into my throat as the doctor fastened on my leg the strange contrivance that would confine me to my bed so much longer. I cried a little bit, but my faith consoled me. I had been given my cross, and I was going to smile through it.

After waiting what seemed eternities, I finally left the hospital in February and went to a private sanitarium in Roseland, N. J. Here I was able to be outdoors more, and here I hoped to finish my book.

People often ask me questions which I cannot answer. They want to know what the doctors say about my condition and if there is any hope. It is difficult for me to make any definite statements in regard to this matter, because I am not solicitous about the future. My knee has improved in some respects. I am able to walk a little with the assistance of a brace and a cane.

Although the radium company pays my expenses at the present time, I have spent almost all of the money received from them three years ago in an attempt to regain my lost health. If for some reason this privilege has been denied me, I have been granted another priceless gift—I have found happiness.

It is my ambition to continue writing. It has been my purpose and my job to be of service to others, if only in the small measure permitted me. It is my hope that I may remain well enough to provide some comforts for a loved one who has suffered much because of this tragedy. My great consolation has been my faith in an omnipotent God. And I have had the privilege of meeting through this adventure those whose lives are devoted to the service of others.

#### STARS AND STRIPES AND ROYAL PALM

(Continued from page 123)

Columbus landed in Porto Rico, which has never been celebrated in Porto Rico and in Spain, a committee of students demanded a holiday. Upon refusal they broke up schoolrooms, drove out teachers and children and destroyed property. As this deliberate stirring up of hatred for personal or political ends is growing worse, the people of continental America should be made aware of it. During the past holiday season, one political party petitioned the rulers of the new republican Spain for the reunion of Porto Rico with Spain. Their argument was that the separation had been occasioned because of royalist Spain, and now that Spain had become a republic, Porto Rico should be reunited. Among non-politicians, comment was that not one out of one hundred thousand but what would consider such a proposal pure madness: that the last to countenance such a move would be the recent emigrants from Spain who through their industry had profited most by the broader economic unity given in cooperation with the States. This has been one of the trying political elements in the situation which no doubt led Governor Roosevelt to his final and regrettable resignation, for the problem still remains with us.

(In answering advertisements please mention THE SURVEY)

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## BANKER CONTROL OF COMMUNITY CHESTS

(Continued from page 119)

ilies in want of the necessities of life. They irritate the financial group by going farther and advocating unemployment insurance as a way to spread the risk and head off some of the distress when times are hard.

These differences will not be resolved without damage to the cause of social work. Many a well meaning volunteer will turn away rebuffed in his effort to render his community a service. And more than a few social workers will suffer defeat and discouragement before they will surrender what they conceive to be the principles of their profession.

But however dark the situation may seem at present, there is no ground for permanent discouragement. Signs of truce are in the air. Settlement houses and young people's associations are pooling their facilities and their man-power to give the people out of work, especially the teen-age folk who are idle, a chance at wholesome entertainment and occupation in spare hours. In this way they render direct aid to the relief agencies. Executive boards have ordered pro rata cuts in agency budgets, only to rescind their action at the instance of hard-working budget committees. It is reason that has won the victory. Some social-work pay has been cut "because everybody else is being cut;" but several Chests that have started out with this conviction, have withdrawn their action after study of the intricacies of social-agency payrolls. As the depression wears on and the social breakage piles up, Chest controls are glad enough to admit the necessity of public appropriations for relief. Even federal grants-in-aid are not beyond the realm of reason. As the basic trouble is a deficiency of common understanding of the real problem, tribulation will finally bring the minds of the control group and the professional worker together.

THE Community Chest, taken together with the Central Council of Social Agencies, represents the physical expression of that great need of the new city for a coordinator in its welfare planning. In whatever form we may find it for the moment, in its essentials it will abide. The banker himself is far from hopeless. He is a money-getter by profession, but in his ranks are some of the best thinkers in the nation. He may yet come to see that the welfare of the whole people will not advance so long as the individual looks solely to his own personal advantage, and depends upon charity to look after the underprivileged. He is bound to see in time that the real citizen is a person of obligations no less than rights, and that highly urbanized life, where millions of individuals must live on the chance opportunity of the job instead of on the soil, cannot be protected and afforded a real place in the sun without carefully engineered community planning in the interests of the common welfare. When he sees these things, he will be traveling more nearly shoulder to shoulder with the professional thinker.

And the professional social worker for his part is becoming daily better trained to observe the horizon of his vocation. He is beginning to see that the general public and especially the financial control that feeds his enterprise, must be convinced of the worth of these efforts before real progress in planning is practicable. He must be patient with conservative thinking about soupkitchens and breadlines, wholesale Christmas baskets and the like. It is his business not only to engineer the plan but also to create the setting for its acceptance by the public. From an early stage, in which the social worker has been practically inarticulate, he is coming now to a strength in interpretation that is attracting the attention even of the highly skilled advertising expert.

Civilized man, victim of his own Machine Age, is standing at the parting of the ways. Either he must adapt his industrial system to the well-being of the whole of his social order, as against a small privileged class, or else this same system will destroy society. It is wholly practicable for the right application to be made. Leaders of industry are coming slowly to see that the greatest social service to man is in the end the most profitable business. The attitude of the professional thinker is the point of view of a rapidly growing body of

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citizens who take a long look ahead and give serious thought to our future. Whatever the quarrels of the moment may be between these points of view, they must resolve themselves in the end in favor of common understanding.

### JOHN BROWN'S BURDEN

(Continued from page 142)

income. Yet, at the time of his discharge, he had total debts amounting to only sixty dollars; and during the period of idleness, he had obtained help from welfare agencies amounting to only seven dollars and fifty cents. Outside of the fact that he had a larger family than some of the others, his case is fairly typical.

Needless to say, people in this low-income group had managed to do little saving as such. They did, however, make provisions for their future in the way of life insurance and some in an effort to own their own dwellings. Only twenty-five out of one hundred and forty-four reported that they had had no life insurance prior to discharge. The amounts the others carried ranged from two hundred and ninety-five to nine thousand dollars. Fifty-two, or slightly more than one third, reported that they had disposed of part or all of their life insurance during the period of unemployment.

Twenty-nine per cent either owned or were buying their homes. Fifteen families lost homes in which they had equities ranging from four hundred dollars to seventy-nine hundred dollars. The latter figure represented the loss of a man whose normal salary before discharge had been one hundred and sixty dollars a month, who had held the same position for four years, and who had a family of four children. Only one of those who lost his home had a monthly income of more than two hundred dollars.

Money in savings banks or invested in securities constituted but a slender reserve against emergencies such as unemployment. The largest sum reported was seven hundred dollars. Savings accounts seemed to bear no relation to the size of the family. From the small number of families reporting, one can conclude neither that people with large families do not save because they have no margin for that purpose, nor that they do save as a protection against the future. Likewise, one cannot conclude that those with small families use their margins in this way. Only thirty of one hundred and forty-four families had savings accounts prior to unemployment and these were, in the main, for comparatively small amounts.

That drastic changes had to be made in living arrangements is indicated by the fact that 40 per cent of the reporting families moved while they were without wages. The reasons given in most cases were loss of home, dispossession because of inability to pay rent, and necessity for reducing rent. Not all of those who moved actually succeeded in reducing rentals; some, dispossessed, had to take the first shelter they could find even though it might be at a higher price; while others purposely moved to larger and more expensive quarters in the hope that they might be equipped to produce income through taking roomers and boarders. Most people, however, moved to some real financial saving, obtaining monthly reductions in rent ranging from two dollars to forty dollars.

LESS than half of those reporting had any instalment contracts pending at the time of layoff, and those that had were committed for comparatively small amounts. Some of these families lost the goods they had been buying on instalments. Five had to give up furniture, six lost automobiles, two lost radios, and one each an electric washer and a victrola. Most of those reporting instalment debts admitted that they had not been able to keep up payments while unemployed, but in most cases repossessions were not made on this account.

It is possible that in the matter of instalment purchases these families were not quite typical of the average. It must be remembered that each had been granted a loan before the questionnaire was filled in. It follows, therefore, that each had passed a rigid examination as to his financial habits and probable ability to repay his loan. During this test most families which behaved improvidently would have been eliminated and denied the funds for which they made application. However, one cannot conclude otherwise than that, even for this carefully selected group, the instalment (Continued on page 160)

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(Continued from page 159) buying privilege was being used only with moderation.

The questionnaire did not reveal in a satisfactory manner the total amount of indebtedness at the end of the period of unemployment. Only two families reported debts other than instalments, totaling more than one thousand dollars. Sixty-five per cent had bills amounting to two hundred dollars or less. Such debts, however, did not include mortgages on homes being purchased for the reason that only such portions were listed as were already due and unpaid. Most applicants desired to borrow to pay off small bills that accumulated with retail merchants, and loans from friends and relatives.

Only 37 per cent received aid from charitable organizations. This ranged all the way from gifts of food to weekly allowances. Such help was comparatively rare among small families. Friends and relatives aided over 40 per cent, supplying many with board, lodging and clothing, and giving others substantial monetary loans. A few families were able to borrow small sums from banks, several went to pawn brokers. An occasional one managed to eke out a living by going into a simple business. One family raised chickens and got an average of sixty dollars a month from that venture; a carpenter and a painter each accepted odd jobs; a laborer advertised himself as a "handyman" and in that capacity earned on an average approximately as much as he had received from the position he lost; and one enterprising husband and wife started a small grocery store which at the time of their report was meeting with considerable success.

One other thing we wanted to learn was how John Brown had gone about finding a new job. Was he willing to pay the fees commercial employment agencies asked, or was he going to rely on his own efforts to pick up something that would do? In general the questionnaire revealed that he had not been willing to go to a place that would cost him money. Even an agency that did not collect its fee until after the job had been secured was asking too much to be added to all the other debts that must be paid out of the first pay envelopes. Only four in the group secured work through an employment agency of any type. Not half of the men had registered with one, no matter whether free or paid, commercially run or operated by the government. Several applied at every agency within reach, and some declared such registration to be utterly useless.

SO John and all the other unemployed like him tried their friends, relatives, trade unions; they tramped miles each day to make personal inquiry at plants; they cultivated and used "political pull"; they answered want ads. Each of these sources had helped one man or another to get his job back—or something to take its place.

Meanwhile, during the out-of-work period they had sustained losses of a sort which those who speak of the burden of hard times so often fail to appreciate. With their new footing, re-employed, they pledged earnings far into the future to pay bills they had been forced to incur. The 164 families studied lost approximately \$130,000 in wages; thirty of them sacrificed nearly \$6000 in savings; fifty-two gave up life insurance policies with a maturity value totaling over \$100,000; fifteen lost homes toward the ownership of which they had actually paid over \$37,000. Together, the group borrowed \$30,000 on the security of future wages to pay off small and urgent debts. So much for the immediate cost which this particular study revealed. There were other debts, both past and future, not mentioned and all these must be met from wages which in the case of these 164 families from now on are to be only two thirds as large as they were before the depression.

These facts raise a question as to whether in a modern society relatives, friends and tradespeople should properly be asked to carry so much of the burden of support of families whose breadwinners are unable to find a market for their labor. Likewise they raise a question as to whether families should themselves be expected to pay so largely the costs of such a stretch of unemployment. They spur us on to a more intense interest in such reforms as may be suggested, and a hope that the time is not far distant when industry, society and our political organizations may plan and accept practical means for assuming, if not avoiding, these burdens which now fall so heavily on hapless individuals.

(In answering advertisements please mention THE SURVEY)

## FOOTLOOSE FAMILIES

(Continued from page 124)

of the two years' absence and because two years earlier he had been under eighteen and so had no settlement except that of his parents. But he had been an orphan since babyhood and had been raised in an orphan asylum.

Although the fact that this asylum was in Michigan did seem to fix the moral responsibility, the officials did not accept him. Private agencies helped him find his brother and sister, whom he had never seen, and since they could send no money he was allowed to hitch-hike to their home.

Last summer a study was made of a sample group of 304 transient families which experienced social workers declared to be typical cases. These cases were reported from twenty-six cities representing all parts of the United States. The families consisted of 1006 individuals and included 483 children under sixteen and 147 young people from sixteen to twenty-five years of age. For 249 of these families it was possible to determine the legal residence. There was insufficient information in six cases. No agreement could be reached by officials as to whether twenty-three had settlement, while for twenty-three others it was definitely established that they had no settlement. In three cases it was determined what state they belonged in but no county or town would claim them. Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and a few other states have made provision to avoid the last dilemma by providing a classification of *state poor* and providing from state funds for those in need who have no local settlement, but in most of the states there is no such provision.

TWO years ago the Bureau of Public Welfare of Cook County, Illinois, was unable to establish any legal residence for thirty-three cases, or 4 per cent of all those referred to it by private agencies for transportation. More recent figures could not be obtained from that department, while some two hundred public and private agencies in various parts of the United States which were questioned as to the number of such really homeless persons who had come to their attention could give no figures whatever or even an estimate. Executives of family agencies in cities as well organized as Philadelphia, New York or Chicago did not know how many families who were non-residents they aided in a year, but they, like the workers in cities in the South and West, could tell of case after case where a family had moved on before any legal residence was established and where the case had been closed with the question still doubtful and other family problems unsolved.

Indeed the case workers who find most of their clients among the residents of their cities and enjoy doing an intensive, constructive work with them, seemed to breathe a sigh of relief when they learned a newcomer had disappeared. Local problems kept them so busy that they gave little thought to what a wandering life might mean to a new family, especially to the children deprived of the sense of security which comes from familiar surroundings.

Some social agencies try to aid wandering families to settle down but often they are not successful. A man, woman and three children started out in their car from Texas to find work. In New Mexico they were in a wreck and the wife and five-year-old girl were badly injured, but they continued into Arizona although they had lost practically all of their household goods and extra clothing in the wreck. The wife was expecting a baby. The Red Cross arranged for them to stay in an automobile camp and provided groceries and clothing. The man had been definitely promised work in Arizona by a man to whom he had written. But the accident delayed their arrival so that someone else got the job. Confinement care was secured for the wife, the man was helped in getting a few odd jobs and he soon found a shack where the family might live after a roll of building-paper had been given to them. The authorities in Texas would not verify the legal residence. The man was assisted in filing a claim for a loan on his adjusted service certificate and when this money arrived the family promptly

(Continued on page 162)

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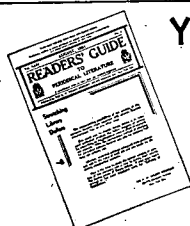
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(Continued from page 161) left town without saying goodbye to anyone.

From a city in Georgia came the report of a woman hitchhiker, nearly blind, whose ambition was to end her days in a poorhouse, but she had wandered too long. She had no legal right even to poorhouse care anywhere in the United States. Badly in need of medical aid, she wandered on, refusing the efforts of private agencies to aid her. She was an American and felt she had a right to a place in an almshouse somewhere.

A couple with seven children came to the attention of an agency in a city in Tennessee when the children were sent out to beg on the streets by their tuberculous father. They had just arrived from Florida in a truck. Their old home was found to be in Virginia, but they had left there six years before so Virginia would not take them back. They had been in another city in Tennessee for two years before they went to Florida but had received relief before being there a year, so had not established a legal residence. The city where they had just arrived could not take over the burden of supporting them all and wished to give them transportation to leave town. But where should they be sent?

THE nearby garage is coming to rank with other cooperative agencies by harassed social workers who deal with transients. When the ancient and filthy Ford with its even more ramshackle trailer, piled high with household goods, in which Mr. and Mrs. W. and four children and a dog had traveled for six years finally stopped in an Atlantic Coast state last summer, the diagnosis of the garage mechanic was that this was a complete wreck; not ten cents could be obtained from the junkman for the remains. Shelter and food were accompanied by medical examination including psychometric tests. Papa was clearly feeble-minded and alcoholic but mama was of a much lower intelligence—so low as not to object to frequent beatings. One child had little more intelligence than his mother, but the others were only dull, normal and who knows how much that level might be raised by decent living and opportunity.

Certainly the children had never had a chance. They were badly undernourished and suffering from the skin diseases of filth. The little girl was blind in one eye from neglect of a simple infection. All the children showed the marks of ill-treatment as well as poverty. For years the entire support of the family had come through the begging of the children reinforced by picking up what they needed. The eleven- and thirteen-year-old boys had each had about two months of schooling, the younger children none at all. The family was entirely illiterate. It might be remarked parenthetically that this was a white, American, Protestant family. The parents objected to any medical care and refused the aid proffered by a family agency to settle down when it became clear that there was no legal settlement to which they could be sent. They resented questions about the bruises on the children. They intended to move on as soon as possible.

It has come to be recognized as a modern American custom to interfere in such cases for the good of the children, but in this case the juvenile court refused to act. The judge held that the state had troubles enough within its borders. Its state school for mental defectives had a long waiting-list, its children's institutions were full, its boarding-home fund exhausted. He could not add further burdens to the state by declaring these children wards of the court and then having to provide for them until they were twenty-one or perhaps for life. Without a legal backing the private agencies felt helpless. In spite of the diagnosis made by the mechanic, somehow Mr. W. got his Ford started, piled in his household goods, wife, children and dog, and departed, swearing to keep quite away from interfering social workers and to secure his support from Christian folk.

For years social workers have talked about the evils of "passing on" or giving transportation without determining if it will actually aid the family, but the general public seldom thinks of more than the immediate need. "Passing on" is still a common practice. The following case is typical. A woman with three young children hitch-hiked from Athens, Tennessee, to Somerset, Kentucky, where the police took up a collection

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to pay their fare by bus to Lexington. When a Travelers Aid worker there made inquiries as to where they belonged, the woman took up a collection in the station and proceeded to Georgetown. The police there sent them on to Williamstown, where the police provided fare into Cincinnati. The woman said she was seeking her husband who had deserted her, and that she wished to put her children in an institution in Cincinnati since in Chattanooga she had been told she must give them up permanently. A brief investigation led to the husband, who complained that his wife was always wandering off with the children because it was interesting to travel and cost nothing.

It was discussion of this problem which led to the beginning of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in 1899. The group formulated the Transportation Agreement which, copied by the National Conference of Charities and Correction in 1902, now under the Committee on Transportation of the Allied National Agencies, is the guide by which it is decided if transportation shall be given in a particular case. However, most county commissioners, police chiefs, ministers and private individuals to whom appeals for transportation come have never heard of the Transportation Agreement. Even for the signers, those who understand why persons ought not to be passed on, the problem of what to do with those who have neither friends nor relatives willing to provide for them, no job in prospect and no legal settlement, remains obscure.

It has repeatedly been urged that a uniform settlement law should be passed in all states. Such a law could provide that one year of social residence should constitute settlement, and that anyone should retain a settlement in one state until he established a settlement in another. If this were done there would be no homeless, unsettled poor. But the states, rather than coming into greater accord about this, seem to be making for greater diversity. Last year California and North Carolina increased their residence requirements from one year to three. There seems no way under the federal Constitution to pass any law enforcing uniformity on the states. Some progress has been made in the care of the non-resident insane through agreements between lunacy commissions in different states, but as the officials in one New England state said when questioned about providing for a non-resident destitute person: "He got into town; he can get out." They were not even interested in determining if he had a settlement anywhere.

**T**O Florida the non-residents have come in hordes and social work, weakened by a succession of disasters in recent years, has not been able to cope successfully with this new flood of unemployed. One attempt to deal with it has been the "Hobo Express," described as follows:

The sheriff from Miami gathers up a truckload of men and boys each morning and takes them to the northern county line. The sheriff from Fort Lauderdale meets them and transfers them to Palm Beach County where they are met by the sheriff of St. Lucie County. Here the chain ends as the sheriff of Brevard County does not meet the express, and it is known that Mr. Hobo eventually makes his way back to the place from which he was first started. Newspaper accounts state that the hoboes are given water and a loaf of bread at noon.

It will be remembered that this method was tried in Elizabeth's England.

Although figures regarding the increase in the number of transients in distress are difficult to obtain, the following may give some indication. The Travelers Aid Societies of the United States cared for 9736 dependent non-residents in 1928 and 18,208 in 1930. While complete figures for 1931 are not yet available, the cities which reported for the first six months indicated that the total would be nearly double that for 1930. In Seattle the Travelers Aid Society aided seventy-three dependent non-residents in 1928, 205 in 1930, and 249 in the first six months of 1931. In Milwaukee, 75 were aided in 1928, 340 in 1930, 332 in the first six months of 1931. Cities in all parts of the country show similar increases. The Los Angeles County Welfare Department aided 4328 transients in the year ending June 30, 1931. That agency, with the help of a few private agencies, aided almost 3700 transient families in the first six months of 1931. In eight

(Continued on page 166)

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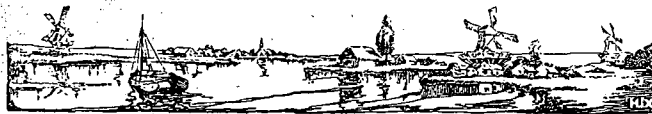
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**DR. SVEN V. KNUDSEN** (248 Boylston St., Boston), the originator of that unique project, My Friend Abroad—the International Interchange of Boys, is taking a group to England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and France the 29th of June.

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**AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY** (65 Broadway, New York) is scheduling a study tour which will trace the development of architecture from the Greek temples in Sicily and southern Italy to modern buildings in European capitals; an anthropological tour of the Southwest and Indian Pueblo district, to be led by Prof. Paul H. Nesbitt of Beloit College; a psychological study tour, including one month's residence in Vienna with lectures by members of the University of Vienna faculty.

## Miscellany

ONE economist, according to *Science News Letter*, places the "touring industry" as the largest in the United States, citing the expenditure of \$3,500,000,000 a year in profit.

It is not clear whether this refers to b.d. or d.d. (before depression or during depression). But at any rate, currently, the Cunard Line is initiating a deferred-payment plan, in cooperation with the Morris Plan Corporation; making it possible to go abroad by paying 25 per cent down and the balance in monthly instalments.

In addition, the Hamburg American, International Mercan-

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