

The Twig

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EDITORIALS

Girls, do you know the purpose of the column in the *The Twig* entitled Student Opinion? It is for you to express your views—to say what you think about anything that pertains to Meredith and its surroundings. Don't wait for us to come to you and beg, coax, and implore you to write something for this column. We are not editing this paper for any fun that we get out of it—it is far too hard work for that. We are editing it for you, and this column is essentially designed as a place where you can air your views. If you are too shy to get up and speak in a meeting of the Student Body, there are still hopes for you—you can voice your opinions through this column. Point out faults and defects, but be sure you can suggest improvements. If you are righteously proud of something, say so. A little praise will help us all. Through the Student Opinion column of *The Twig*, and the Student Opinion department in the *Acorn* you have a far greater privilege than you are mindful of, in developing a larger and finer Meredith Spirit.

Rene Maran, a young Negro author, has won the annual prize of Goncourt Academy for the best French novel of 1921. This author was born on the island of Martinique, French West Indies. The novel deals with colored life in Central Africa and is entitled "Batouala." The Goncourt prize is worth 5,000 francs, and is one of the most cherished literary awards of France.

BIRDS, SUBJECT OF INFORMING LECTURE GIVEN BY MR. GORST

(Continued from page 1)

people spend much time growing them, yet rarely does anyone stop to listen to the lovely notes coming from the throats of the little birds around them.

Most people are not willing to take Nature as Nature is. One of the sweetest religious experiences one can have is to seek for truth outside of oneself—to be alone with Nature in a sublime and prayerful silence. To him, that is the greatest inspiration except real religious activity.

Then he gave the songs and calls of many other birds, such as the Song Sparrow, common Water-bird and spotted Sand Piper. He showed how they call their young or one bird calls its mate. This he said was their means of communication whether one cared to call it language or not. He imitated the Flicker, commonly known as the wood-pecker, Bluejay, Cardinal or Red Bird and Grouse or Robin Canary.

"Birds," he said, "do not tell us what they think for they do not think, but they do feel and tell us how they feel—in fact they have many strong feelings—they hate, love, fear, get angry, feel happy, etc. They give expression to their feelings through their songs."

Occasionally, Mr. Gorst said he would hear a new note and would think he was going to find a new bird. But on tracing the sound and searching for the new bird, he would not find a new bird at all, but a familiar one singing a new note.

To show the economic as well as the aesthetic value of birds to humanity. Mr. Gorst gave statistics taken by the Department of Agriculture as to the catching of potato bugs and insects by a few birds, especially the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The rate of multiplication is so rapid that within a short length of time, farming would be made impossible if a storm should kill off all these birds. Thus, they stand between us and starvation.

As a lover of birds and nature Mr. Gorst was, of course, opposed to the shooting of birds, but he also objected to the wearing of plumes and feathers.

He next showed us, with the aid of illustrations, his methods of writing bird songs. This seemed very strange for doubtless most of the audience had never thought of writing what the birds try to say.

Although the song of the Mocking Bird is very sweet, the speaker's favorite was the Hermit Thrush. His evening hymns are most beautiful and he could, on hearing them, imagine himself standing in the midst of subdued silence in a vast temple looking through the mighty pillars around it with the notes of some majestic pipe organ echoing through the arches. This music is celestial.

His study of birds has made him feel more about Nature and has caused him to

have keener intelligence as Wordsworth felt toward God, when he said:

And I have felt a presence
That disturbs me with the joy of elevated thought—
A sense sublime of something far more deeply fused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean, and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man,
A motion and a spirit that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought, and roll through all things.

The lecture was closed by an unusually sweet, whistling solo, Mendelsohn's "Spring Song."

GIRLS ARE URGED TO TAKE PART IN WRITING CONTEST

(Continued from page 1)

MSS. shall be numbered (and shall bear no other mark of identification), and each judge shall, without consultation with the others, on the basis of thought, rhetoric and style, grade each making no record whatever on the MSS. His grades shall be recorded on a separate piece of paper, and returned to the General Secretary and the MSS shall be forwarded to the second judge, who shall do likewise, etc., until all three judges shall have passes upon all of the contesting MSS.

2. The Secretary shall then total the grades accorded each newspaper MSS. and the one having the largest total shall be declared the winner. In the magazine contest in any of the fields the winner shall be the entrant receiving the majority vote for his contribution.

3. The winner of the newspaper contest shall receive a full write-up in the newspapers that are members of the association in addition to the publication of the winning material.

4. The winner of the magazine contest shall receive a full write-up in the literary magazines that are members of the association in addition to the publication of the winning material.

5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to see that adequate facts about the winner's life, work and personality are furnished the interested publications so that they may proceed to give a fair and good write-up.

X

1. There shall be three judges of the final contest.

2. These shall be elected by the president of the association.

The cost of one United States battleship would endow four universities like Princeton or build 8,600 homes at a cost of \$5,000 each.