

# Book Review

DEAN REVIEWS  
THE ABLE McLAUGHLINS,  
by Margaret Wilson (Harpers).

By JAMES W. DEAN  
NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—The significant note in new literature is the change in attitude of authors toward inland America.  
Our cousins in Minnesota, Ohio and Iowa need no longer hang their heads because of the ridicule poked at them in "Main Street" and its contemporaries.  
Authors have turned the time of action back a generation or two and are picturing the heroic careers of those who carried civilization beyond the Alleghenies. The provincial attitude of authors toward the provinces has changed to one of reverence.  
Three of the six books of recent months are "A Lost Lady," "The Hawk-eye" and "The Able McLaughlins." In each of them pioneer characters of the mid-west are molded in heroic size.

Margaret Wilson won first prize in the Harper prize novel contest and was awarded \$2,000 for "The Able McLaughlins." She competed against 750 other novelists.  
The able McLaughlins were Scot immigrants who settled 60 miles beyond the end of a railroad in Iowa, a father and mother and the oldest of the boys, and Allen, the youngest, in the Union army in the civil war. Allen was killed. After that it was the brave Isobel McLaughlin who sent Wully back into battle.  
Isobel and her husband were Scotch Covenanters. Their days began and ended with scripture reading and psalm



MARGARET WILSON

singing, the smaller children often falling to sleep during the evening ceremony, thus being ready for bed.

If Isobel were prouder of one child than another it was Wully. When Wully came back from the war he married Christie McNair, a neighbor lass.  
The early arrival of a son dealt Wully's mother a heart-breaking blow. "She was a woman who had sympathy with the mother of Zebedee's sons. If she had been there with Christ, she would have asked unashamed for four places on his right, and for four on his left, the nearest eight seats for her eight sons. What dreams she had dreamed for them! . . . Wully was a man now, and a man who brought women to ruin."  
Later she learned from Christie that Wully had not been unhonorable, that Wully had driven the seducer from the countryside and had insisted on marrying the girl he loved. Wully's mother had to idealize her son again. She could see that he had done a generous thing. And she would see that the world saw that. She could run to meet Christie's mother, now, across the floor of heaven, unashamed.

The story goes on with the bleakness of prairie winters and the richness of prairie summers, with the pride of the McLaughlins, their home build-

ing and their up-stream struggle. It ends with Wully and Christie coming face to face again with Christie's early betrayer. They drove him home in their wagon, to die.  
Christie turned her smiling face to Wully. "And almost before Wully could smile in return he stopped. He turned around. He thought he heard a groan from his load. He couldn't even smile at her with that man possibly spying upon them. He looked—and from the end of the wagon that man had lifted his head a little, like a snake, and had seen the smile that Christie had turned upon her husband. At the terrible sight of that face he pitted his enemy. That coward, in his damned way, had loved Christie. And in his tormented sunken dying he had seen all the sweet intimacy from which he had been shut out and had sunk back again, felled by the blow of that revelation. Wully had forgone revenge. He had forborne running a sword less sharp through his fallen enemy than Christie's wifely smile had been."

Wully McLaughlin is one of the most rugged heroes of contemporary fiction. Creation of such a character alone would have entitled Miss Wilson to the prize her novel brought her.

Best sellers during the past month, as compiled for The Bookman by Frank Parker Stockbridge are:  
FICTION—"Black Oxen," "One of Ours," "His Children's Children," "The Dim Lantern," "The Enchanted April," "The Middle of the Road," "Faint Perfume," "The Covered Wagon" and "Babbitt."  
GENERAL—"Life of Christ," "Life and Letters of Walter H. Page," "The Mind in the Making," "Etiquette," "The Outlines of History," "The Americanization of Edward Bok," "A Man From Maine," "The Goose Step," "Up Stream" and "Damaged Souls."

It is interesting to note that "The Covered Wagon," which ran serially in the Saturday Evening Post several years ago, is now a best seller in book form. There can be no doubt that this is directly attributable to the influence of motion pictures on literature. "The Covered Wagon" was transferred to the screen several months ago. This has aroused the interest of the public in the story.  
This situation also proves that the motion picture public is the reading public and that producers who have been turning out photodramas to meet morose intelligence have been shooting considerably below their target.

## Sorority Elects Officers for Year

TRINITY COLLEGE, DURHAM, Oct. 13.—The local chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, national scholarship fraternity, has elected members of the present senior class to be taken into the distinguished order at the regular November initiation. The following members were honored by their participation in being invited to membership: Marie Couch, Durham; Margaret Frank, Mt. Airy; Robert Crabtree, East Durham; William Leake, Seaboard; Agnes Judd, Vartina; James Secret, Canton; James Keech, Tarboro; Edgar Fisher, Elm City; Alice Newcomb, Henderson; George Allen, Durham.

## BOOM IN OLD STAMPS

The boom in stamp collecting continues and today the number of people who collect the little revenue raisers is believed to exceed that of all other collectors together. There are 23,000 collectors of stamps and when variations and other differences are recognized the total would be nearly 40,000.

## BOY SPANKER IS SUGGESTED

Use of a spanking machine equipped with broad paddles so arranged and geared as to administer varying degrees of punishment, according to the needs of the offender was advocated at the conference of the National Association of Child Protection Officers. The "spanker" is to be used in place of jail sentences for first offenders.

## 1,000 FUR FARMS IN CANADA

The total number of fur farms in Canada last year was 1,009. Of this number 960 were fox farms, 17 racoon, 13 mink, three skunk, one marten, one fisher, four karakul sheep. There was an increase over 1921 of 185 fox farms, and 12 miscellaneous fur-bearing animal farms.

## State Of Nayarit, Mexico Is Hidden by Map of World

"The state of Nayarit, Mexico, where a battle is reported between a band of agrarians and Mexican troops, will be looked for in vain if one depends on maps or reference books printed more than six years ago," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society.  
"This tropical, Pacific coast region of Mexico was until a few years ago the Territory of Tepic, continues the bulletin, "But Mexico, like the United States, has been steadily revamping her territories into States, and old Tepic, rich in memories of the Spanish regime, was the latest to undergo the transformation. When it was advanced in 1917 to the status of statehood it took as its name that of the Nayarit Mountains which extend into the region from the north."  
In a communication to the Society, Hebert Corey, who recently traveled through Nayarit, describes as follows the valley of the Santiago, Mexico's longest river, the leading agricultural section of the state.  
"One does not often hear of the Santiago river, and yet it is the longest in Mexico. Rising in the state of Morelos, it flows through Lake Chapala and on to the sea near San Blas. Cortez sailed it for some distance with this little bark. At intervals it roars through barrancas which are sometimes 2,000 feet below the level of the surrounding plain, and in which the Indian farmers find a super-tropic climate that forces vegetation as might an equatorial hot-house. During the rainy season the river spreads 25 miles wide through the flat, jungle-grown lowlands.  
"It runs through farming land that could feed two or three of our own

states, if the farmers were only given a chance to farm and not compelled at the muzzle of rifles to drop the plow and be patriots every little while.  
"This land would grow any sort of a tropical crop if it were given a chance. One can in season ride through miles of wild limes and lemons rotting on the ground. The thought of cultivating oranges has never yet come to the peon. It has not even occurred to him to fight the black scale or whatever other enemy may attack the trees. The cocorite palm is responsible for a local soap-making monopoly, for its kernels are 65 per cent oil.  
"There are fields of sugar-cane, and bananas flourish wherever planted. The best coffee in the world—at least as good coffee as there is in the world—comes from this district. Rice and tonoco the vanilla bean is found.  
"Through Nayarit, from its ancient Pacific port of San Blas, runs the remains of the old Spanish Road eastward to Mexico City and down through the lowlands beyond to Vera Cruz on the Atlantic. Thanks to the Road, the east-bound convoys from the Philippines were spared the perilous traverse around Cape Horn.  
"The main highway was defended by forts or by minor outposts at strategic points, and from it lesser trails were driven into the hills or the more inviting valleys, for the convenience of priest and miner.  
"Not until Porfirio Diaz began to build the net of Mexican railroad did the Road begin to fall into disuse, and even today there are wide stretches of country which can only be reached by it. In these back blocks one sees the Mexico that appeared to the eyes of Baron Humboldt and Madam Caldeon de la Barca."

## Digest of Week's Biggest News

By CHARLES P. STEWART  
Chancellor Stresemann is making frantic efforts to keep Germany from breaking into a number of separate states, such as existed before Bismarck united them, about half a century ago, into the empire the Kaiser ruled.  
Defeat in the world war shook this union badly.  
The present republican government's surrender to France in the Ruhr, naturally a terrible blow to the people's faith in today's regime, threatens to drive some, at least, of the states into deciding to "go it alone" again.

What France Wants  
Indications are that this is what France wants, since she would have little to fear from a group of weak, separate states, compared with a united Germany. However, undoubtedly it would mean indefinitely prolonged confusion in Central Europe, which would not suit the rest of the world. England especially would be displeased, for both business and political reasons. In the end it might not be a good thing for France, but she seems to think so now.

New German Cabinet  
Stresemann resigned as chancellor, or premier, but immediately accepted a reappointment and began forming a new cabinet. His idea appears to have been, not to quit, but to make a fresh start, with a group of ministers who were more in harmony with him. Probably he really wanted to make himself dictator, so as to fight the separation movement more vigorously, but this plan was abandoned temporarily. It may be tried later.

No Decision Yet  
Rival forces are still struggling in Oklahoma.  
Governor Walton declared martial law as an anti-Klux Klan measure. On the ground that he had violated the constitution, a majority of the members of the house of representatives tried to impeach him. Walton said he hadn't called a special session so, at his order, state troops scattered them. Then an election was held, to change the law so that a session could be held even without the governor's call. The proposition won by a large majority. But Walton denies the election's legality. He has a court injunction to back him.  
However, he himself has called a special session now, "for the purpose," he says, "of the enactment of a law to protect the people from masked and lawless marauders"—no special organization mentioned. His idea appears to be to get his own complaint before the house ahead of impeachment proceedings.

Wets and Drys  
Bishop Schrems, addressing the National Council of Catholic Women's Convention in Washington, referred to prohibition as "a law the people admit can't be enforced."  
Figures compiled by the United Press account for 2000 known deaths from poison liquor thus far in 1923.  
Federal prohibition headquarters statistics show 480,000 Americans drinking whiskey daily on doctors' prescriptions, as medicine.  
The Federal Council of Churches has been called into conference in Washington, Oct. 14, on the subject of prohibition, the summons saying violations are increasing and that mob rule threatens the country.

HEART IS BURIED IN AFRICA  
The heart of David Livingstone the famous Scotch explorer of Africa lies buried beneath an obelisk in the "Dark Continent," but his bones have been placed in Westminster Abbey. The obelisk is a big forest and the British authorities felt it proper that his heart should remain in the continent for which he died.

ITCHY PIMPLES ON FACE  
And Arms. Very Large and Red. Cuticura Heals.  
"My face and arms began to break out with pimples that were hard, very large and red looking. They were scattered about my face, which was badly disfigured. The pimples itched and burned, causing me to scratch and irritate my face.  
"I sent for a free sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment and it helped me. I purchased more, and after using one cake of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment I was completely healed."  
(Signed) Miss Ara Belle Cotten, Walling, Tenn.  
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## Vigorous Old Age

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S. S. S. is made of carefully selected herbs and barks—scientifically prepared and proportioned. Welcome Old Age when it comes. Be ready to withstand the attacks of disease that follow in its wake. Meet Old Age with a hearty handshake. A handshake that speaks of well being—of a vigorous, clear thinking, red blooded constitution. S. S. S. is your best friend when Old Age is seen rounding the corner. Get a bottle and drive care and worry away. All leading drug stores carry it. The large size is the most economical.

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