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Tuesday, May 12, 1931

Billions Of Morons

Closed is the Quadrennial Institute on Human Relations here, and with it are closed for another four years scores of minds stimulated and inspired by contacts afforded by this past week's meetings.

To decry the fact that collegians do not struggle to think independently of their family and community groups is to place ourselves in the class of perfectly mediocre thinkers. The most lamentable feature of mental life in the United States is the absence of respect or consideration for collegiate opinion. College humorous publications have given adult members of society the very erroneous impression that men in college are a class of buffons whose I.Q.'s are around seventy and who wear great raccoon coats, cheer football teams and get drunk in the winter, and who wear loud blazers, beer suits, cheer crew racks and get drunk in the spring.

Under the deprecatory attitude of the non-academic public of the country the student mind speaks to deaf ears and amused and humoring faces. And still less understanding is the professoriat who, quite in general during these latter days of intolerance and arch conservatism, looks upon college men as bad little youngsters incapable of doing aught but sit at their feet glibly repeating memorized words and phrases, and who are not to be trusted with optional attendance, or other liberal and archaic systems of individualism.

What inspiration or necessity is there for youthful thought in a world as hostile as ours. Institutes spaced as far apart as four years are of ephemeral influence, while machine made

civilization, moronic movies, tabloid literature, tyrannical and disciplinary pedants, and a condescending public are producing and will continue to produce with accelerating rapidity a race of high class morons of which future generations may justly boast—We are four billion strong and all think alike.

With Contemporaries

Pulitzer Prize Novels

- 1918 Ernest Poole, *His Family*
- 1919 Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons*
- 1920 No award
- 1921 Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
- 1922 Booth Tarkington, *Alice Adams*
- 1923 Willa Cather, *One of Ours*
- 1924 Margaret Wilson, *The Able McLaughlins*
- 1925 Edna Berber, *So Big*
- 1926 Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith* (declined)
- 1927 Louis Bromfield, *Early Autumn*
- 1928 Thornton Wilder, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*
- 1929 Julia Peterkin, *Scarlet Sister Mary*
- 1930 Olivia La Farge, *Laughing Boy*
- 1931 Margaret Ayer Barnes, *Years of Grace*

These 12 American authors, winners of Pulitzer prize novel awards since 1918, have each been accorded the distinction of having produced the best novel during a given year in the opinion of the awards committee.

One, Booth Tarkington, was twice recipient of the honor. Another, Sinclair Lewis, refused to accept the prize when it was awarded to his book *Arrowsmith* in 1926.

There is no doubt about the merit of the novels chosen. All have been good books.

But after a second perusal of the list the questions invariably arise: What about Theodore Dreiser and Sherwood Anderson, who were also producing during this period, Dreiser with *An American Tragedy* and Anderson with *Winesburg Ohio* and *Dark Laughter*?

And what of James Branch Cabell? Is his type of writing to be ignored entirely, and hence discouraged by the committee? Sinclair Lewis in rejecting the prize in 1926 objected to it on the grounds that its influence was not in the best interests of literature. Placing the final selection of the year's best novel in the hands of one select group, he declared, would tend to discourage individuality in writing since writers, in order to win, will more and more follow the standard held by this committee.

A further question that is raised regarding the award is the feasibility of saying that one novel worthy of the prize will be produced each year. To do so is to place an artificial time limit upon talent not at all in keeping with nature's sporadic distribution of genius.—*Daily Iowan*.

Modern Educational Concept

Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, new president of the University of Illinois, advocated in his inaugural address certain concepts of modern day higher education which are worthy of consideration. "The state university must be responsive to the social philosophy of higher education which has become so clearly evident in the state and nation," he said. "Almost unconsciously we have come to a point at which the prolongation of formal education up to the age of maturity has become the normal and accepted state of affairs."

That the percentage of young men and young women of college age who are continuing their education beyond the high school stage has increased sixfold in the last three decades is an item of no small significance. Dr. Chase presented figures to show that only three per cent of the young men and women in the country continued their education after high school in 1900 as compared with eighteen per cent in 1929, and he predicted that the trend is still on the increase, in spite of the depression which now grips the country.

Men and women are realizing more and more the important role played by a college education in their material and social welfare during later life. Of course the educated man has the most chance of advancement in the business sphere, but the modern and increasingly important concept of education embraces more than material gain. Quoting Dr. Chase, "It is a short sighted and wholly partial view of higher education that measures its value in terms of its money returns to the individual."

The value of an education lies not entirely in vocational preparation, but also in the development of those essential qualities which fit the individual to become a working cog in the social machine. Modern society is complex. The world moves at a faster pace than it did a generation ago, and its requirements of its individual members are more exacting than they used to be. It is well to view the function of the present day college as something more than a store of technical information. It must prepare its ever growing number of students to live their lives and adapt themselves to their environment in the most effective manner.—*Purdue Exponent*.

Is College Liberalism Dead?

After lamenting the fact that college liberalism has ceased to exist and that university men are becoming "collared conservatives," William Harlan Hale in the *New Republic* makes the following suggestion:

"It should be the duty of the university heads themselves to introduce provocative and controversial lectures. Of course, the capitalistic trustees and corporations which dominate the scene are averse to any such dangerous experimentation; they see frightful visions of a graduating class of insane communists."

Mr. Hale's suggestion that University authorities should welcome speakers who are not strictly conservative is a good one. We have had on the campus a lecture course which has consisted of excellent men, but none of them presented radical points of view.

Last year the student body was fortunate to hear a man like Norman Thomas, and the campus population failed to exhibit any violent manifestations of bolshevism. The students in this University are far too conservative to have any one or any one dozen or even any one hundred speakers convert them to socialism, radicalism, or any of the other "isms" which are such bugbears in most people's minds.

Such a course of lecturers would not contaminate the minds of the students, but they might stimulate in a few more of them a thought or two which would be a real service to humanity. College authorities need not be afraid of the bugbear of the "isms," and they could properly welcome a few radicals as they have sometimes done in the past, who could present ideas to counteract that set conservatism which leads to the blind acceptance of the status quo and a kind of social and intellectual stagnation.—*Daily Kansan*.

Negro Accomplishments

The progress that the Negro has made in the years since he was freed from slavery was strikingly set forth by President Hoover in his speech last month at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Tuskegee Institute.

The Negro has been a citizen for only a little more than six decades. During that time his race has increased its wealth more than one hundred and thirty times, has reduced its illiteracy from ninety-five to twenty per cent, and has reduced its death rate by half. It has risen to the ownership of more than three-fourths of a million homes, and has accumulated property to the value of billions. "The progress of the race within this period has surpassed the highest hopes of the most ardent advocates," the President said over the radio. "No group of people in history ever started from a more complete economic and cultural destitution.—*Daily Kansan*."

UNIVERSITY MEN READ PAPERS AT SCIENCE MEETING

"(Continued from first page) quids." come to rest under the surface, explode and break into particles that rise into the air. This explains the peculiar phenomena of the loss of gasoline when a more valuable solution is dissolved into the gas and throws some light on the behavior of spray liberated at the terminals of a storage battery as the battery is being charged.

Dr. Fussler read a paper on "The Electrical Resistance of the Human Body." The paper showed that the resistance of the human body from head to foot is not several hundred thousand ohms as heretofore thought, but only a few hundred. The excessive resistance in the contacts and opposed to the forces set up at the points of contact.

Describes Siamese Fishes

Professor A. S. Pearse, of Duke university, read a paper on, "Air Breathing and Land Fishes of Siam." Dr. Pearse found that fish known as beach gobies can live about a week out of water and that for this reason they can be placed on the market for live-fish purchasers for that length of time. He also found fish called sea-serpents that can exist without water for a period of four months.

"The Theory of Electrodeless Discharge at Low Pressures" by Dr. Otto Stuhlman, Jr., dealt with the problem of the possibility of exciting a gas to become luminous through collision between electrons excited by a high frequency radio wave and the atoms of the gas.

Henry zurBurg's paper entitled, "The Electrodeless Discharge Characteristics of Hydrogen and Nitrogen" was another contribution from the University.

HIBBARD OFFERS EXTENSIVE PLANS FOR LIBERALISM

"(Continued from first page) individuality of the students and inconducive to earnest and wholehearted scholastic interest. Although Dean Hibbard never realized his aims here at the University, he has left his theories imbedded in the minds of the students and of numerous University officials. With his success in effecting liberalism at Northwestern as an example, the remaining disciples still have hopes of directing North Carolina education along a similar plan.

An essayist declares that the schooner Hesperus was not wrecked at all. He'll be saying next that the village blacksmith was always up to his eyes in debt.—*The Humorist*.

Men Dropped

Three desk men, two editorial writers, the sports editor, and eight reporters were yesterday temporarily suspended from the *Daily Tar Heel* staff. Those of this number interested in remaining on the staff are asked to meet this afternoon at 1:30 in the Tar Heel office.

They are: Riley, Hawley, Blackwell, Manheim, Barnett, Bessen, Poe, Betts, Carr, Gordon, Glenn, Blount, Reynolds, and Cocke.

RARE STATUTES ARE PRESENTED TO LAW LIBRARY

"(Continued from first page) Mr. Vanderbilt's lawyer and used these session acts in connection with his work. When the great financier died, Mr. Van Winkle purchased the set from the Vanderbilt estate and it was known to be one of the most valuable and one of the most complete sets of early legislative enactments in the state.

The gift of this set to the law library makes available to faculty and students who need source material for their work practically all laws in unbroken succession from 1818 to date. Special effort has been made within the last two years to complete the broken set owned by the library. The task has been a difficult one because of the fact that not only were the very early volumes out of print but none prior to 1915 could be secured from the state distributor because the reserve stock of state publications stored at the state printer's in Raleigh were burned in 1915.

This makes the second gift of early state session laws given to the law library by an alumnus of the University. The first contribution was made last fall by Mr. A. B. Andrews of Raleigh.

PROHIBITION WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY NEW COUNCIL

"(Continued from first page) Emory Richard Johnson, M.L., Ph. D., Sc.D., professor of transportation and commerce, dean of Wharton school of commerce and finance, University of Pennsylvania.

Samuel C. May, M. D., LL. B., professor political science, University of California, Berkeley. Miss Susan Myra Kingsbury, Ph. D., professor of social economics, dean of the graduate school, Bryn Mawr college, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Economics Professor Will Lecture at Duke Professor E. W. Zimmerman will lecture to the economics students of Duke university Wednesday evening on "The Dangers of Economic Feudalism."

India, has got her salt. All she needs is a little pep.—*Youngstown Vindicator*.

GUSTAV PLESSOW WILL LECTURE ON LIFE IN GERMANY

"(Continued from first page) eral point of view of the American people. It is interesting to note that Dr. Plessow, as well as Dr. E. W. Zimmermann have both remarked that they have seen more poverty in the United States than in any country in Europe.

Series of Lectures Dr. Plessow has written many books on English literature, and is particularly well-fitted to give the type of lecture that he will give tonight. It should be the most interesting of any which he has as yet delivered at the University. Dr. Plessow as a visiting professor at the University is also giving a series of weekly lectures on the "Principle Forms of Style in Medieval English Literature" every Thursday afternoon. This series of lectures counts as a course in Medieval English.

Now, if the fellow who invented unbreakable windshields will only try his talent on banks.—*Roanoke World-News*.

FATE OF AN EMPIRE IN HIS GRASP

FRIENDLY FIVE SHOES

We've just received a shipment of these shoes in the WHITE and BLACK SADDLE style.

Sizes from 6 to 10½.

SENIOR CLASS REGALIA

We have secured an extension for ordering "BEER SUITS" until 3 o'clock today (TUESDAY).

Randolph - McDonald Inc.