

flash of crimson against the background of black-jacks; against fields of brown, and along the roads. The scarlet groups on the hillsides appearing like blood oozing wounds.

Later the cottonwoods change to pale yellow, and then the black-jacks seem to go mad in rivalry for frenzied gaiety before the winter death. Tranquil and glinting in the mid-day sun, expressing the richness of maturity, with a hint of the sadness of mutability and mortality which gives life much of its interest; the symbol of that bitter-sweetness which has much to do with the romance of living. As the setting sun turns the horizon to orange and red, and the mauve of twilight floods the distant hills, the mad colors stand out boldly and crazily like colored bits of material dropped from the sky by the hand of some careless pagan god.

The Autumn is the beginning of death, the last glorious manifestation of life before the silence of winter; the Mardi gras of Nature, it is a season of activity and excitement.

The tragedies and emotions of reproduction hold the insect world, but the humming activity of Autumn has a different meaning from the lazy humming of the Spring. The voices of the woodpeckers are heard throughout the day, storing winter foods; the squirrels make many trips a day along the ground and up and down trees in the creek bottoms and along the ridges where the sun dappled shadows are athrill with life. The honking geese travelling in V's and etched against the orange glow of the Autumnal sunset, gives life to a picture already replete with color. The bluebirds with soft voices of vague restlessness are forming in flocks. The robins call to each other in tones of pathos and discontent, and the vulgar bluejay cries in hoarse impatience, his thoughts divided between this strange restlessness and his alert watchfulness for the unique. The ever present crow flies high above the painted trees and makes a fuss out of all proportion to the seriousness of his existence. The coyote complains of his lot to the cold, uninterested moon, and the little screech owl quaveringly appeals to the eerie spirits of the night, while the great barred owl sends his booming hunting call echoing along the still creek bottoms, freezing the furry hunters of the lower world in their tracks.

Color, extravagant and exuberant display; fevered activity and restlessness; the assembling of Nature's cast in the drama of Life, before the final curtain of winter.



Twenty-three courses are offered by the extension division of the university at Oklahoma City.

R. O. T. C. and the university

BY CARL ALBERT, '31

The students of the University of Oklahoma are justly proud of their R. O. T. C. unit. Its standing among others of the Eighth Corps Area and of the country, the progress it has made during the last four years, and the splendid opportunities it offers for needed training in different fields deserve the commendation of every citizen of this state.

My personal contact with the Department of Military Science here has revealed to me that, as least as far as this particular unit is concerned, R. O. T. C. is endeavoring to teach university men in the fundamentals of cooperation, of fellowship, and of leadership. It is therefore training a group of civilians, not only to be able to defend the colors in times of crisis, but also to be leaders in their communities in times of peace.

We use here the same general plan found among all units. Work is divided between class room instruction and drill. The entire course consists of basic and advanced training. It serves as a sort of balance wheel for freshmen. When the average boy matriculates in college he goes out of the reach of the eyes of his parents for the first time. New temptations are shoved in his face. His father is not there to make him study his lessons or attend his classes. With his desire to accommodate his attitudes to those of the new situation, with his ambition to prolong the thrills of rush week, with his attempts to make himself immediately a "typical college lad" he faces the danger of losing sight of the things that are most essential to the progress of the individual.

Military training helps to supply this deficiency. Two hours of close order drill every week has a disciplinary value that is not found in any other activity. This fact of discipline alone justifies the existence of compulsory military training for freshmen and sophomores.

In the summer, following the junior year, the advanced course students spend six weeks in camp at Fort Sill. There they are organized in batteries and trained in all the elements of field artillery work. They act both in the capacity of cannon-eers and of battery commanders observing and conducting actual fire on the range.

It was the pleasure and good fortune of

my class to attend camp last summer. I have heard it said by any number of those who were there that the six weeks at Sill constituted one of the most enjoyable vacations that they have ever had.

There, we not only received the training and the exercise which go along with military duties but received from our officers many favors that will be long appreciated and remembered. We were served food far above the class of any I have ever found at any other camp. We had weekly social functions and were privileged one evening with a dance at the Officers Club. In addition to this we spent the afternoons swimming or competing in different sports with the rival infantry units made up of cadets from Oklahoma Military Academy and Oklahoma A. and M. During the evenings and week ends we were free to go to Lawton or to Medicine Park, a nearby summer resort. With the regularity and discipline of the camp, with plenty of intensive work and exercise, with ample recreation and entertainment, the six weeks passed hurriedly by and left in our minds the memory of an exceedingly well spent vacation.

At school, as well as in camp, may be found many encouraging activities connected with the Department of Military Science. Our polo team, for example, was brought here by reason of the establishment of this unit. It is trained by one of our army officers and has developed into one of the finest in the Southwest. Our pistol team won the national championship last year. We also have competitive drills offering prizes to winning batteries. Then at the end of each school year splendid awards are given to outstanding students of the department. In addition to this, we are fortunate in having riding clubs and an annual horse show in which competition is always keen.

It would be difficult to estimate the value of these activities to the student, the unit, and the school. Suffice to say that they have a tremendous effect upon the morale of the students. They certainly have furnished no small part of the incentive which have caused the cadets to work hard and consistently and to obtain thereby the rank that the unit now holds.

Four years ago the R. O. T. C. here was

made distinctly a field artillery unit. Prior to that time, it was both infantry and artillery. During that same year, also, Major Parker, the present head of the department came here. Having been one of the class that entered the university that year, it has been my fortune to see his work from the day he came until the present time. In 1927 there were 1180 students in the first course, and 143 in the advance. Today the score stands 1325 and 282. Along with this many material improvements have been made throughout the department. Around the armory one unconsciously obtains a sense of completeness and order. This is much more a fact today than it was four years ago. The saddle room and other buildings in the stable area are supplied with gas and heat instead of coal. An additional battery of 75mm guns has been added making four complete batteries of French 75's here. Two new polo fields have been built. Over three thousand dollars have been spent for one hundred beautiful band uniforms. The band has also an idea of the material progress which the department has made.

Besides our military instruction, we have two annual military balls and a sponsor's day program. We are generally called upon to furnish the outstanding features of parades and other activities. As a result this unit has become an integral and outstanding part of the school.

What has been the cause of this development? There can be but one answer: Namely, the type of instructors the department has been fortunate enough to obtain plus the keen executive ability of Major Parker who, with his staff has stood square shouldered behind every movement that the university has made.

In the advanced course, which is optional, may be found the captain and the outstanding football players of the school, three out of four of the men of the junior class who were Phi Beta Kappas, the president of the student council, the president of the engineer's club, and in general, all of the men who are the most promising in their various fields of endeavor. This fact, alone, seems to indicate the respect that is shown for Major Parker's work. Although he will leave here to occupy a better position next year his departure will be regretted by thousands of students and citizens, but his work will be remembered, in Oklahoma as long as this state appreciates the conscientious efforts of an able man. He has given a splendid unit to us and we all, I believe, feel justly proud of it.

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Kathryn Hayden Salter, wife of Professor Jack Salter, formerly with the school of citizenship and public affairs and now of the University of Wisconsin faculty, is the author of a sonnet appearing in the April issue of the *Ladies Home Journal*, entitled "Prairie."

Belles lettres and bell ringers

An old song

Green Grow the Lilacs, a Play By Lynn Riggs, '23. New York. Samuel French. 1931. \$2.00.

It is always difficult to write of the things which are familiar. For this reason it is hard for me, and I believe would be for others who have spent their childhood in Oklahoma, to write of Lynn Riggs' latest play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*.

Mr Riggs writes in his preface that the play might have been subtitled *An Old Song* and as such it appeals to me. Many ancient memories and forgotten images are reawakened by the lovely familiar sayings and singings of Aunt Eller and Laurey, Curly and the pedler, and of the characters of their community. Aunt Eller in particular voices a language which is vigorous and graphic, which incorporates many of the wise savings which we have heard in our youth.

The play is dated 1900 and the setting is an Indian Territory ranch near Claremore. It is developed in six scenes rather than the conventional three acts. Mr Riggs explains this mechanism in his preface.

"I threw away the conventions of ordinary theatricality and tried to exhibit luminously, in the simplest of stories, a wide area of mood and feeling. I thought of the first three scenes as 'the characters' and the last three as 'the play.' After the people are known I let them go ahead acting out their simple tale which might have been the substance of an ancient song."

The story is a simple one of young love and old wisdom and dark villainy. Laurey Williams who lives with her Aunt Eller Murphy on a ranch is wooed by Curly McClain, a cowboy. Aunt Eller promotes the match while her overseer, Jeeter Fry, craves Laurey for himself and stoops to evil deeds to destroy his rival.

It is simple enough as a story goes but the lyric imagery of Mr Riggs' prose, the universality of his sympathies and adoration for beauty, the free unrestrained telling of his tale, lift it to the heights of great drama.

The declared intent of the author was "solely to recapture in a kind of nostalgic glow (but in dramatic dialogue

more than in song) the great range of mood which characterized the old folk songs and ballads I used to hear in my Oklahoma childhood—their quaintness, their sadness, their robustness, their simplicity, their hearty or bawdy humors, their sentimentalities, their melodrama, their touching sweetness."

This goal I believe he has reached with a degree of success seldom attained by a pioneer in drama. For that he is a pioneer is evidenced by his play and that his pioneering has succeeded is proved by the notices which followed its production. Many were the critics who found fault but even the most begrudging among them conceded that Oklahoma's Lynn Riggs had introduced a new note into the American theatre which will probably be a cornerstone upon which our next decade of theatrical interpretation will be based.—
B. K.

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Oil Production

Developments in the Petroleum Refining Industry As Related to Overproduction of Crude Oil. By Edward C. Petty. University of Oklahoma Press, 1931, 32 pages. Price fifty cents.

Much has been written lately on the overproduction of petroleum and its effects but little has been said about the influence of overproduction on the refining of petroleum or the influence of refining on overproduction. This booklet by Professor Petty meets this need by filling the gap. It is a valuable contribution to the literature on the economics of petroleum.

Professor Petty states that the overexpansion in petroleum refining operations is both a cause and an effect of overproduction of crude oil. He gives evidence of excess refinery capacity and shows the necessity for some excess but goes further to show that a good part of the present excess is wasteful. The reasons for overexpansion he attributes as follows: the rapid growth of industries dependent upon the oil industry, the innate characteristics of oil finding and producing operations with recurring periods of oil shortage and oil surplus, and the stress put upon the petroleum industry in its task of furnishing war-time needs.

The growing demand for petroleum products also stimulated the yield rates especially for gasoline. The percentage yield of gasoline from crude oil in the United States increased from 26.1 per cent in 1918 to forty-four per cent in 1929. Al-