

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-

though the yield had increased during the past decade and the refinery capacity had increased, the total number of refineries in the United States in 1930 was only eight in excess of the total number in 1921. The average capacity of the plant had increased more than 100 per cent during the same period of time.

The factors taken into consideration in the location of a manufacturing plant are: proximity to raw materials, an available supply of labor, accessibility to market and an adequate supply of reasonably priced power. In the earlier days proximity to raw materials was the determining factor in refining location. However, in recent years the author points out that accessibility to market has been the determining factor. The shifting in location was due to changes in transportation costs and methods. The development of gasoline pipelines the author thinks will prove to be an offset to poor refinery location. The gasoline pipeline will reduce transportation costs on gasoline and to that extent render refineries already located distant to consuming markets more effective in competition with those located in market territories.

▲ LEONARD LOGAN, '14

The Missouri questionnaire

Professor Jerome Dowd, professor of sociology and internationally known author, disagrees with the report of the American Association of University Professors on the sex questionnaire at the University of Missouri in an article in *School and Society* for March 7.

I think that the administration of the University of Missouri was entirely justified in interfering with the circulation of the questionnaire. The avowed object of the questionnaire was to get at the causes of the "widespread dissatisfaction with the prevailing institution of marriage."

Now, I think that many young people reading this questionnaire would get the idea that the institution of marriage was generally breaking down, and that some wise heads were casting about to find some kind of substitute. I would consider such an impression very misleading and very demoralizing. A sociology department, above all, should not lend its influence to the dissemination of a social untruth.

In Soviet Russia, I understand, that since the revolution, there has been a good deal of promiscuous pairing of the sexes without the formality of marriage, but I have not heard of "the wide-spread dissatisfaction with the institution of marriage" in my neighboring state, Missouri. So far as Oklahoma is concerned, where I have some first-hand information, I am sure, in spite of the known hospitality of this state to social novelties, that marriage is still very popular among the people, and that, "if at first they don't succeed, they try, try again."

Even if the questionnaire had dealt with a much-mooted question and had been limited in scope, and confined to students of the department properly dealing with sex subject-matter, it might still have been legitimately objected to as an oversaturation of the mind with erotic suggestions, and therefore as tending to create a morbid interest in sex and likely to have a demoralizing influence. In edu-

cational work especially, I think it is desirable not to offend the sense of propriety of the people of a community by any unnecessary frequency or prolongation of attention to abnormal sex relations. In the case of the Missouri questionnaire, it is evident, from the amount of opposition to it by the people of the university community and by the press of the state, that its circulation among miscellaneous undergraduates was, at least of doubtful propriety.

But the investigation committee brushed aside the sentiment of the people as irrational and set out to prove that the questionnaire was entirely proper.

One of the arguments used to defend the questionnaire was that the evidence did not show that it had shocked the students or had "led to sexual immorality or to decreased self-control in the matter of sex behavior."

The question for the committee, however, was not whether the questionnaire had demonstrably corrupted somebody, but whether its general effect might be demoralizing; and a question of this kind can be determined only by public opinion. For illustration: If we wish to know whether detailed representations of crime in motion pictures may have a demoralizing effect upon young people we do not quiz boys and girls at random and decide the matter on their testimony, but we take a consensus of adult opinion which is a resultant of the known facts in the case. The committee does not seem to have asked a single witness the pertinent question whether he or she thought that the circulation of the questionnaire was proper under the circumstances.

Another argument in defense of the questionnaire was that it contained subject-matter no worse than that encountered by the students in their ordinary environment. In support of this contention, the committee caused an investigation to be made into the subject-matter of 212 current plays, 152 current novels, and 208 current motion pictures, which brought out the fact that 29 per cent of the plays, 38 per cent of the novels, and 29 per cent of the pictures dealt with "uncommon sex situations."

It is not at all apparent how these figures lend any support to the questionnaire, unless we assume that anything is proper if it deals with subject-matter no worse than that found in 32 per cent of the current plays, novels and pictures. This kind of argument places the committee in the light of maintaining that a university has no right to set up standards above those of the lower types of current art. It is equivalent to maintaining that the musical department of a university has no right to insist upon standards which rise above those of the ragtime or jazzy dance hall and vaudeville.

A protest against the overlap upon the sex interest ought to be as justifiable on part of a university as on part of any outside organization. Not long ago, Bernard Shaw, who is something of a liberal in sex matters, expressed his disgust at the overdriving of the sex interest in the motion pictures, and he remarked, as a hint to the film companies that the most successful artists of our time had not exploited the sex interest. The film companies seem to have taken the hint, and have recently formulated and published a new code, which, among other things, declares against demoralizing scenes of passion and of sex perversion, and against any attack on "the sanctity of the institution of marriage."

Surely, when the radicals, like Shaw and the film companies, begin to call a halt on the overdriving of the sex interest, the people of Missouri might be pardoned for preferring a less exploitation of it on the university campus.

Second, I do not think that the personnel of the committee was wisely chosen. Here was an affair concerning the sociology department of a southern university, and yet there was no sociologist and no representative of a southern university on the committee.

Third, I do not think that a questionnaire on any subject as broad in scope as the one in question would meet with the endorsement of a social science department in any university.

An oil triumvirate

A triumvirate of the petroleum industry "to follow the precedent established by organized baseball" to "dictate where, when and how much oil should be produced," according to the *New York Journal of Commerce*, was advocated by Dr Leonard M. Logan, '14 arts-sc., of the college of business administration in an address to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers February 19 at New York City. It was proposed "as a possible remedial measure for unstable conditions in the oil industry." Doctor Logan "suggested that the dictatorship might have two members appointed by petroleum organizations and the third by the president of the United States." Introducing Doctor Logan, Joseph E. Pogue, nationally known petroleum engineer, declared that the Sooner professor's book *Stabilization of the Petroleum Industry* was the best book on petroleum economics yet issued.

Future of physics

The Future of Physics is the title of a booklet by Dr Homer Levi Dodge, dean of the graduate school, just published by the University of Iowa as a study. Doctor Dodge believes in a broader attitude towards the field of physics than that entertained by most of the pure physicists today.

Comparative embryology

Dr A. Richards, head of the department of zoology, is the author of *Outline of Comparative Embryology*, published by John Wiley & Sons. The book treats uniquely of embryology from a comparative viewpoint.

Prose readings

Readings in English Prose is the title of a book to be published in June by Doubleday, Doran & Co., the authors being Professor A. R. Ramey and Mrs Charles M. Perry (Winifred Johnston), '23 arts-sc., contributing editor of *The Sooner Magazine*.

Michigan's president

Dr Charles M. Perry, head of the philosophy department of the university, is the author of *Henry Philip Tappan, Philosopher and University President*, which will be published by the University of Michigan about July 1. The book deals with the philosophy and letters of Michigan's great president.