

Belles lettres and bell ringers

ADVANCING THE FRONTIER, 1830-1860. By Grant Foreman. University of Oklahoma Press. 1933. \$4.00.

THE University of Oklahoma Press has turned out a number of excellent books, and has consistently maintained the highest standards of scholarly book-making. But of all its undertakings, probably none deserve more honorable mention than the publication of its *The Civilization of the American Indian Series*, inaugurated in 1932. Of the four volumes already issued in this Series, Mr. Grant Foreman has written two. His *Indian Removal* was splendid: his new book, *Advancing the Frontier*, as good or better. No one, in this particular field of research, has done such masterly work.

Indian Removal gave the story of the shifting of the Eastern Indians over the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma: the new volume tells of the adjustment of these immigrants to their new home in Oklahoma prior to the Civil War. They were faced with many problems, among which their relations with the wilder buffalo-hunting nations to the West was one of the most pressing. The book includes the history of the attempt made to organize all the Indian nations into a state modelled upon the typical American pattern, and of the resistance of the tribesmen to that unsympathetic project. Here we see the effects of the wavering policy of the United States towards the Indian, of the shifting, fluctuating temper and conditions which beset the various Indian peoples, and the resulting intrusion of the Army and the Indian Bureau. All these forces, inter-acting, had much to do with forming the present society in Oklahoma, and the personality or social complexion of this state. Whoever reads Mr. Foreman's new book will find not merely a wealth of fresh matter (some of it highly entertaining—such as the court-martial of Lieutenant Jeff Davis), but will gain a better understanding of the identity and conditions of the Indians of the region, of the steps leading to their modern status, and of the present civilization of the Southwest.

Mr. Foreman's materials are chiefly unpublished manuscripts and official records in the Government archives in Washington, D. C. These have been

wisely selected from the abundant stores of such records there, at what must have been the cost of great labor to the author. Not content with merely printing the records, Mr. Foreman has been kind to us in the matter of illustrations, and has also supplied us with ten maps and plans of the frontier army posts, heretofore unpublished. The book is handsomely turned out. The map on the jacket, in particular, is a beautiful piece of old-style cartography, drawn by Mr. Conkright, of the Press. The University is to be congratulated on this book.

STANLEY VESTAL.

American Minds

John Joseph Mathews, '20sc, of Pawhuska, author of *Wah'Kon-Tah*, has been asked by Richard George McKnight of Chicago to contribute to his symposium on "American Minds in Miniature." Others who will appear in the book, which probably will be published next year, include Mary Austin, Stanley Vestal, Henry Seidel Canby, Waldo Frank, Zona Gale, Harry Elmer Barnes and Lewis Mumford.

John Gould Fletcher

John Gould Fletcher, a leading figure in the school of imagist poets, will speak at the University November 7 under the sponsorship of the English department. "Tradition and Experiment in Contemporary Literature" will be the subject of his address. He is author of many books of poetry and prose, one of the latest being "The Black Rock," a collection of verse. At present, Fletcher is making his home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Life of Tappan

Dr. Charles M. Perry, head of the philosophy department of the University, is the author of *Henry Philip Tappan*, Philosopher and University President, which the University of Michigan Press published October 13. Tappan was the first professor of philosophy at New York University. Professor Perry's volume is sponsored by the American Philosophical association as one of a series of volumes dealing with early American philosophers.

"As Husbands Go"

The Playhouse of the University will open what promises to be the best sea-

son thus far with Rachel Crothers' play *As Husbands Go*, in the University auditorium November 10 and 11. Season tickets were reduced to a new low of \$2.00. Among other plays being considered for presentation this year are *R. U. R.*, *Lilom* and *Death Takes a Holiday*.

Rank High in Play Contest

Robert Whitehead, '33ex, of Tulsa and Ernie Hill, '32journ, of Norman, assistant editor of *The Sooner Magazine*, ranked third and fourth respectively in the national playwrighting contest sponsored by Zeta Phi Eta, national dramatic fraternity, recently. More than a hundred plays were submitted by various contestants.

On "No More Trumpets"

Sinclair Lewis selects in *New York Herald Tribune Books* for September *No More Trumpets* by George Milburn, '30ex, as one of the books he wants to read this fall. In the same issue celebrated Franklin P. Adams remarks that Mr. Milburn's "utterly American stories" are, "as were his *Oklahoma Town* garland, unlike anybody else's stories... In a word, Mr. Milburn writes no duds; he has something worth saying in every story. He is not a short-story writer who ought to write a novel, though I confess that I should like to read any novel he might write. He is a first-rate short-story writer, which is distinction enough for anybody."

Spiers Book Out

Yuman Tribes of the Gila River by Leslie Spier, professor of anthropology at the University 1927 to 1929, has been published by the University of Chicago Press.

The book is a study of the fast disappearing Maricopa and Halchidhoma Indians. Christopher Morley's comment after reading the book was, "It should have been called 'Yuman Beings,' so sympathetic was he with Spier's treatment of the subject.

Shorter Notes

Dr. Frederick Lynne Ryan of the college of business administration, is the author of an article on "The Development of Coal Operators' Associations in the Southwest" in the September number of *The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly*.

Fleta Campbell Springer, '98ex, is the author of an article "NRA Goes into Action" in the October issue of *Harper's Magazine*.