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'Required Reading' for O.U. Alumni

1

Ararat

A new novel by Elgin Groseclose, University of Oklahoma graduate and former faculty member. A dramatic narrative of a Texas cowhand turned missionary in the land between the Black and Caspian seas, and an officer of the Russian Imperial army. Published by McCarrick and Evans, New York ... \$2.50

2

The Trampling Herd

A new book with an Oklahoma and Texas background by Paul I. Wellman, one of the popular writers on the Southwest. Published by McCarrick and Evans \$3.00

3

The Old Santa Fe Trail

A new book by Stanley Vestal (W. S. Campbell of the University English faculty). A volume sure to please everyone interested in American history, the frontier, the West, in travel, or in adventure. The Santa Fe Trail took off in everyday America and ended in a haven of buckskin heroes, gold dust and easy senoritas. Stanley Vestal tells the story of that western trek from Coronado to the coming of the railroads. Published by the Houghton-Mifflin Company \$3.00

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CHARLES MILES, '22, Manager

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Oklahoma Books and Writers

The Watcher at the Nest, by Margaret Morse Nice. Illustrated. The Macmillan Company. 1939. \$2.00.

Many alumni of this University will find a somewhat personal interest in this charmingly written account of accurately observed bird life. For the author, who is the wife of Dr. L. B. Nice, once head of the physiology department here, used to be an outstanding influence and a source of great inspiration among nature lovers of the state, and particularly, of course, among campus groups and Norman residents.

Mrs. Nice is now unquestionably an authority on bird lore. She is president of the Wilson Ornithological Club, author of many strictly scientific articles, of which many have been translated into other languages, and was invited more than once to speak at international meetings of ornithologists.

There is a wealth of accurate and interesting information concerning birds in *The Watcher at the Nest*, all of it derived directly from the author's own careful and competent observation. Indeed, the passages that let us into the secret of her methods and attitude are very inspiring and stimulating. We get through them a true picture of a devoted, absorbed observer, who, straining all her senses, disregarding fatigue and discomfort, and with all her faculties alert, records faithfully and patiently tedious details of a bird's life. And the miracle is that she writes them up in this book, for the general reader, in such a way that they not only do not seem tedious, but are actually thrilling.

Perhaps we may accuse Mrs. Nice of being an indiscreet gossip. Just notice these chapter titles: "Two Divorces and a Happy Ending"—"The Grandchildren of Uno and 4M"—"4M Charms His Neighbor's Wife."

Mrs. Nice has many devices which enable her to study individual birds in their native environment. For instance, she traps them for this purpose, bands them in a certain way, and then releases them, and is able to recognize the individuals at a distance by these bands. Using special bird glasses, she plants herself in a well chosen point of vantage, and observes the birds' behavior, their love affairs, their marriage customs, their nest building, their home life, their family relations, the education of the young, their boundary quarrels, the newcomers' acquisition of citizenship, the different bird songs.

The Macmillan Company has given a pleasing and suitable dress to the book, and clear, readable print. The illustra-

tions in black and white are very attractive.

—SOPHIE R. A. COURT.

Manual on state government

An 80-page manual, *An Introduction to the Government of Oklahoma*, was published this summer and was used for the first time during the Boys' State conducted at the University by a committee of the American Legion.

The booklet was prepared by five members of the faculty of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs—Cortez A. M. Ewing, Royden J. Dangerfield, H. Vern Thornton, Oliver E. Benson and Joseph C. Pray. It was published under sponsorship of the school and the Americanism committee of the Oklahoma department of the American Legion.

Designed to aid in the American Legion's citizenship training program, the booklet presents a condensed but highly informative survey of Oklahoma's state government—its constitution, the state legislature, the state executive and administration, the Oklahoma court system, local government, and the machinery for popular control of government through the ballot.

It is somewhat amazing to learn that there has previously been no such convenient means of teaching young people in Oklahoma the fundamentals of government and how it actually operates. This booklet obviously fills a serious need.

As a matter of fact, most Oklahoma adults could improve the quality of their citizenship at least a hundred per cent by devoting an evening to perusal of this excellent booklet.

Numerous charts add a great deal to the clarity and effectiveness of the descriptions of governmental functions and jurisdictions.

—R. C.

Distinction for pamphlet series

Winifred Johnston Perry's ambitious project, Co-operative Books, received a tremendous boost during the summer when *Economy of Scarcity: Some Human Footnotes*, the third number of the pamphlets in her series, was chosen by the Pamphlet-of-the-Month Club for national distribution to its members.

Selections for the club are made from pamphlets submitted for review by many different publishers. Editor-in-chief is Alfred H. Bingham, author of *Insurgent America* and *Man's Estate*, and editor of the magazine *Common Sense*.

Economy of Scarcity is the second of three numbers of Co-operative Books financed entirely by associates and subscribers to the series. The authors, all members of the Federal Writers Project of Oklahoma, are Welborn Hope, of Ada;

Daniel M. Garrison, of Seminole; and Ned DeWitt, '36ex, and Jim Thompson, both of Oklahoma City.

Sooner writers

Give Me a Child, a new book by Mary McDougal Axelson, '13ex, has been published by Caxton Printers, Idaho. The book is a novel of motherhood, based on her play, *Life Begins*, which was remarkably successful on both stage and screen.

The courses in professional writing conducted at the University of Oklahoma by W. S. Campbell of the English faculty received a warm compliment recently from the *Saturday Review of Literature*. This widely read publication stated "The course in professional writing offered by the University of Oklahoma sounds so efficient and intelligent, whether taken in person or by correspondence, that we are tempted to refer it to many applicants who wish that kind of information and training."

An article on "The Training of College and University Teachers" by Homer L. Dodge, dean of the Graduate School of the University, appeared in a recent issue of *School and Society*. Dr. Dodge, who had made an extensive survey of this field, suggests that each institution needs an all-university committee to make suggestions for the improvement of the whole education program, to insure better training for future college and university professors.

A second edition of *Level Land*, book of southwestern poetry by Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16, '19ma, professor of modern languages in the University and editor of the *Sunday Oklahoman* literary page, has been released by the Kaleidograph, Dallas, Texas. The second edition is slightly enlarged to include some recent poems.

A short story, "Calamity Rolls His Guns," by Lee Bond, '32, appeared in the July 15 issue of *Wild West Weekly*. Mr. Bond is on the staff of the United Press bureau at Oklahoma City.

Robert Whitehand, '33, instructor in drama in the University during the last year, won second prize in a national radio script writing contest conducted by Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Maurice Halperin, assistant professor of Romance languages in the University, is author of a comprehensive survey of literary productions of Mexico during the last year, which was published recently in *The Living Age*.

Edits new publication

Ira Rice, '38ex, is editor of a new religious newspaper, *Christian Soldier*, which he founded in the Rio Grande Valley March 2. Mr. Rice is evangelist for the Church of Christ at Edcouch, Texas.

He is former city editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*.

Faculty Page

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

College at Goodwell to become dean of fine arts at Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas. Mr. Jackson also will be director of music at the Polk Street Methodist church at Amarillo, and give private instruction in voice.

Robert Whitehand, '33journ, instructor in drama during the last year, has resigned in order to spend the next year completing work for a Ph. D. degree in drama at the University of Iowa, where he received his master's degree.

Mr. Whitehand hopes to return to the University of Oklahoma, he said, but was not eligible for a leave of absence as he had been on the staff only one year. He is author of a number of prize-winning plays and short stories.

B. A. Botkin, who has been on leave of absence from the faculty for the last two years, will return this Fall to his work as associate professor of English. During the last year he has been in Washington, D. C., serving as folklore editor for the Federal Writers' Project.

Robert C. Gorham, associate professor of electrical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and former member of the University of Oklahoma faculty, is author of a new book, *Power Economics for Engineering Students*.

W. R. Wehrend, director of University bands and professor of music education, was elected national counselor at the convention of Kappa Kappa Psi, band fraternity, held in August at Cincinnati, Ohio. Herman Ziemer, manager of the University bands, was elected national treasurer.

Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, professor of physics, is scheduled to address an international meeting of philosophers at Harvard University September 10. He was to return to New York August 31 from a summer of travel in Europe.

A life fellowship in the Andean Anthropological Expedition of the Institute of Scientific Research has been awarded Dr. Willard Z. Park, head of the University's department of anthropology. Dr. Park headed an expedition to northern Colombia two years ago.

Herbert H. Scott, '26, '26ma, director of the Extension Division, spoke at the annual meeting of the American Library Association at San Francisco in June, and led a roundtable discussion at the convention of the National University Extension Association the next week at Berkeley.

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