

Oklahoma Books and Writers

THE ORDEAL OF BRIDGET ELIA: A Chronicle of the Lambs, by Ernest C. Ross. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1940. \$2.50.

THE strange story of the sister of Charles Lamb, a woman who wrote brilliantly though subject to recurrent insanity for more than fifty years, is told in this new book from the University Press.

Mary Lamb, who was called "Bridget" by her brother in some of his intimate essays, is shown by this book to be not just a useful collaborator with her famous brother, but a competent writer herself.

It was a peculiar sort of life of "double singleness" led by the moody Charles Lamb and his mentally unstable sister, but their lives touched intimately many of the literary figures of the great romantic movement in English literature, and Mr. Ross's book deals with a subject well worth presenting.

Mr. Ross, who is professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, has been a student of the Lambs for many years, and has worked on the life of Mary Lamb for the last ten. During the winter of 1931-32 he visited the haunts of the Lambs in London and its environs, and during 1937-38 he returned to London to investigate the last years of Mary Lamb and to write this book.

Although all biographers of Charles Lamb have necessarily included much material about Mary Lamb, Mr. Ross's book is the first to tell her story fully.



Cultural Relations With Latin America, by W. B. Bizzell, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1940.

This booklet is a report by the president of the University on a conference held in Washington, D. C., in November, 1939, on Cultural Relations Between the Republics of the Western Hemisphere.

Some of the thoughts presented are particularly timely in view of possible effects of the European war on the United States' relations with Latin America.

Dr. Bizzell emphasizes the idea, developed at the Washington conference, that better cultural relationships with the countries of Latin America should be sought ahead of better trade relations.

"In view of what is happening in Europe," Dr. Bizzell comments, "we should realize that we must get much closer to South America and keep up the very best possible relations. The commercial relations will follow the development of the cultural, and the way will be much easier."

"There is certain to be a great increase in intercommunication between North,

South, and Central America in the immediate future," he adds. "I sincerely hope that our institutions in Oklahoma may be fully cognizant of what all this implies for all of us."

Sooner Writers

The Oklahoma Annotations to the Restatement of the Law of Agency, by Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19, '22law, professor of law in the University, has been published by the American Law Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. The American Law Institute is a nonprofit organization composed of leading scholars among the judges, practicing lawyers and law teachers of America, which for nearly twenty years has been engaged in the task of restating the leading principles of the common law in the United States. Dr. Merrill previously had prepared the Nebraska Annotations to the same subject, and is the first man to prepare annotations to the same subject in two states. He also assisted in the preparation of the Nebraska Annotations to the subject of contracts. A revised and enlarged second edition of Dr. Merrill's *Covenants Implied in Oil and Gas Leases* has been published by the Thomas Law Book Company, St. Louis, Missouri.



Campus Review

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fundamental research dealing with the structure and vibration of molecules. For this work he has gradually developed what is probably the best equipment in the country. Little did he dream that it might have an application in the oil field of Oklahoma. It is not strange, however, that when Mr. McReynolds came to Norman to see if spectroscopic equipment were available, he found his way to Dr. Nielsen.

Spectrum analysis is the fastest and most sensitive method of detecting and measuring amounts of chemical elements as small as one ten-millionth of an ounce. Mr. McReynolds, from previous experience in California, had become convinced of the value of this type of analysis to the oil industry. Oil well brines and similar solutions were chosen for analysis because they are characteristic of the different strata and thus give a clue to underground structure.

The work will be done with two spectrographs built a few years ago by Dr. Nielsen and N. E. Ward, research fellow in physics, and with a micro-photometer built by Dr. F. W. Crawford, former instructor in physics and now research physicist with the Phillips Petroleum Company.

Writing Magazine Fiction



A new book by
Walter S. Campbell
(Stanley Vestal)

This new volume on writing technique by the director of creative writing courses at the University of Oklahoma, and published by Doubleday, Doran and Company, sums up the knowledge and experience of one of the nation's most successful instructors in this field.

The book is a comprehensive, well rounded explanation of the technique for writing and marketing short fiction for magazines. It supplements Mr. Campbell's book, *Professional Writing*, which was a more general approach to the whole subject of writing for publication, and which won wide acclaim from critics.

Mr. Campbell writes from the double viewpoint of successful author in his own right, and a successful teacher of writing technique, so the methods he suggests are thoroughly practical instead of theoretical.

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