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Linwood Library Gazette

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No. 2

In this small journal of ours space is limited and valuable, and it appears to us, upon glancing through the previous few issues, that the Editorial has been perhaps too lengthy. So this month, as something must perforce be crowded out, we will confine our remarks to the front page articles.

We have been singularly fortunate in securing items from many distinguished contributors who have given us their views on library matters, taken from varying viewpoints. This month we print the first part of an interesting article on "The Printed Word and Civilization," by Mr J. W. Baty, Registrar of the Justices of the Peace Association. Mr Baty has given us much food for reflective thought and shows us how modern literature, as well as the ancient classics, owes much to man's ingenuity in evolving signs, written or printed, to convey thought through the ages. We commend this article, in its entirety, to our readers.

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor," Linwood Public Library.

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BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED IN THE NON-FICTION ROOM

The Defence of the Empire. By Sir Norman Angell. Sir Norman Angell in the opening chapters discusses the change in thought and attitude of Britishers regarding dominance and power during the last twenty years. How England has abandoned the Imperialistic idea, and how the Press "has contrary to precedent, approved the surrender, often applauding." What is this Empire, he asks, and points out that here and there the substance has been given away, retaining the shadowy, elusive glamour of the crown. Further how the Labour Movement has operated along similar lines, with the difference of getting the substance, leaving the ancient symbols, a psychological development hard to understand by other nations. She has de-imperialised the Empire. The Dominions are Republics in nearly everything but the name. "The Empire has become a nascent international society." Speaking of her trade, he sees an urgent reason for access to distant dominions without interference and as we cannot separate the problem of economic organisation from the problem of defence, the two are one. The conditions of effective defence are presented in a manner that clearly shows how little we understand the psychological attitude. To those who say they will not fight except for their direct interests, he points out that it is literally true that only by being willing to defend others can we possibly defend ourselves. Defencelessness would not prevent aggression, nor give safety. The problem is to combine peace with defence. The British "retreat" is grim reading for Britishers, and seems to point that the opportunities for action in Africa and Asia were in existence but, that the powers that be, chose differently. Now she is re-arming at a tremendous rate, and for what? The letters in the final chapter give us opinions of the author and of others and conclude a most interesting book and one that many should read, for it helps one to understand better, the problems that are troubling many.

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Back from the U.S.S.R. By André Gide. This book has aroused considerable and widespread interest. The author tells us in the foreword that three years ago, he declared his admiration and love for the U.S.S.R.; later, he tells us, there arose misgiving in his mind as to the welfare of the Soviet and that he determined to re-visit Russia. Was he mistaken? Or, was the change in the U.S.S.R.? Then follows an important and suggestive sentence, "By the U.S.S.R. I mean the man at its head." He doubts the value and sin-

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