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# Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

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January, 1938

## THE LIBRARY'S PART IN GENERAL EDUCATION

By D. W. Kohlstedt\*

In attempting to discuss our library's part in general education I began to wonder just how we could define education and of what it should consist. Culture was one of the first terms which came to my mind, and it is a fine generality used extensively by sociologists who speak in an abstract manner. Yet any culture worthy of the name must draw its life from both the finest minds of the present and the greatest minds of the past. If it confines itself to either to the exclusion of the other, it becomes deformed. So I felt that possibly this word culture might be the quality I was seeking in defining the work of the library, for we try to keep on our shelves the finest works of the present and the greatest works of the past.

Reading habits are a direct result of schooling, for the teaching of reading is one of the primary functions of the school. Of the three "r's," the basic elements in education, reading is the one activity learned in school which most of us could best utilize in later life. In spite of the magnitude of publishers' lists, the national totals of book sales and even library circulation, we, as a nation, are newspaper readers. We read sensational news. With speed, action, and sensation as the motivating forces of the day, the schools have failed, in the main, to teach students to read either for enjoyment or profit. They have slighted their opportunities to create a reading habit.

During the first year of high school the student is usually required to read about eight books, and here he is introduced to three words—required, supplementary, and classic, worst of the three. He develops an antipathy for books in general based on these three words. His reading habits are formed at the corner drug store, or by patronage of the vendor of questionable literature always found within easy reach of the schools, through cheap literature, or not at all.

Encouragement rather than coercion leads to reading enjoyment. The personal enthusiasm of the librarian or teacher is the important factor in reading guidance. We still can do much, in co-operation with the schools, to see that reading is directed and inspired, not forced and warped.

On September 30, 1936, Hendrick Van Loon—who assisted in preparing the plan for a broadcast of episodes of world history for young people—assisted in the demonstration of specimen records of these broadcasts at the New York Public Library. This is the result of an endeavour to find a more practical method of arranging successful story hours for children over the radio. However, if the series finds a sponsor, it is planned to be a weekly feature programme of the National Broadcasting Company, with direct speech and real actors. It is further planned that records of the broadcasts may be made for library circulation to schools at a later date, or any other uses to which they can be put.

The radio, the newspapers, and the



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magazines, have their place in this modern age, and the library is more than a resting place for books—it is the real educational centre of the community. In evaluating the relationship between the community and its library at least two things must be taken into consideration. The first is the inclination to read on the part of the residents themselves because the mere establishment of facilities is not indicative of a need. The second is, of course, the library itself for its success depends upon the facilities available and the use to which they are put.

Not until comparatively recently did the library conceive of its duties as extending beyond its doors rather than solely to those who voluntarily entered. I, for one, place greater emphasis upon service to the individual with less stress on weight of numbers or highly favourable statistical balances in determining the usefulness of the library. The latter will be an outgrowth of the former. Other public institutions have found individualised service too costly to be practical, so we suffer from standardisation, but it can do much to keep grown people growing, to liberate their minds and to enrich their lives, for much as children learning to read, our public walk with indifference in our world of books. How they fare depends upon how soon and in what measure indifference gives way to inclination and selection.

(To be continued.)

\*Librarian Public Library, Kansas City, Kansas.

## FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

As I write these words Christmas 1937 is still in the future, though very near. The different ways of spending those next two or three weeks reflect I think the kind of people we are. Just as thought governs action so in action we find our real selves. Then what are our proposed actions through this particular period? The major idea seems to be "get away for a holiday." Quite a good idea, whether for old or young. The elderly idea of a holiday is the same as the young but tempered down to the crux of the matter by long experience of "holiday." Holiday comes from Holy Day, and at this season we have both. It is renewed strength, physical and mental, that is the desired end, and by a change of environment, occupation, and people we hope to attain this end. Also, that the "strength" we gain

must be at our disposal for some time after seems to me to be a necessary conclusion. A few chosen books, a quiet spot with preferably the sound of lapping wavelets near, a spirit of content and good will. These are some of the means whereby we gain insight to the things of the mind that enrich and energise us for what we may meet in the year to come, and so we reach the conclusion that it is wise to have a holiday if it is possible. It is wise to lay up stores of physical and mental strength, and it is wise to plan how these gifts may be used in the next days. The chair hopes that these holiday times may be days of brightness, laughter, contentment, and happiness, and that our library is on the eve of one of its most successful years.

## NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED ON SHELVES

Trip-Tyque, by Charles Graves (Europe).  
Moscow, by Lion Feuchtwanger (Europe).  
Mediterranean Medley, by Capt. Lionel Dawson (Biography).  
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands, by G. C. Henderson (South Pacific).  
Wide Horizons, by R. H. Croll (Australia).  
The Story of the Coronation, by Sir John Hamerton (Great Britain).  
Martin Luther, by Brian Lunn (Biography).  
Vagrant in Summer, by Nina Murdoch (Europe).  
The Next World War, by Lieut.-Commander Tota Ishimaru (History).  
One Arm Sutton, by F. A. Sutton (Biog.).  
My Mis-Spent Youth, by Henry Fitch (Biog.).  
The Face of the Earth, by J. H. Curle (History).  
Through Wildest Papua, by J. G. Hides (Asia).  
Stanley Baldwin, by Arthur Bryant (Biog.).  
Forbidden Journey, by Ella K. Maillart (Asia).  
Spies of the Sahara, by ExLegionnaire 1384 (Africa).  
Gringo, Watch Out!, by Hans Koster (America).  
North to the Rime-Ringed Sun, by Isobel W. Hutchinson (America).  
Hell's Broth Militia, by W. J. Buckridge (Asia).  
Ships, Coolies, and Rice, by L. G. W. White (History).  
The Diary of a Slave, by Rustam Khan-Urf (Biography).  
Under the Flag, and Somali-Coast Stories, by L. P. Walsh (Biog.).  
The M.C.C. 1787-1937, by "The Times" (Sports and Games).  
Maiden Voyage, by Margaret Gilruth (History).  
Sorrows and Joys of a New Zealand Naturalist, by H. Guthrie-Smith (New Zealand).  
Highwaymen, by Chas. J. Finger (Biog.).

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## Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the  
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After reading Mr. J. W. Baty's excellent article on the Printed Work and Civilisation it occurred to us that the motion picture of to-day owes much to the printed word. Many famous novels have been drawn upon by film producers to form the basis of some of the finest examples of film art. Among recent examples may be quoted "Captains Courageous," by Rudyard Kipling, "Quality Street," by Sir James M. Barrie, and "Prisoner of Zenda," by Anthony Hope. In our own Library we invariably experience a keen demand for novels or biographies that have been "picturised," and we venture to say that readers feel added enjoyment when reading these books. The characters so skilfully drawn by the author seem to stand out more vividly when we visualise, say, the Count of Monte Cristo in the form of Donat, that exquisite actor.

So it is, that when film producers portray the essence of some worth while novel, they encourage the reading of such books by countless numbers of folk who are thus encouraged to become film and book-fans.

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## OTHER BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED ON NON-FICTION SHELVES

**The Spanish Cockpit.** By Franz Borkenau. Franz Borkenau is an expert sociologist, and went to Spain to study the conflict from the viewpoint of a scientist. The first chapter gives one a splendid background against which to gauge the reactions of the Spanish people, to the many conflicting parties, as described further on in the book. His second visit emphasises some of the opinions arrived at earlier, and at the same time cause him to discard other previous conclusions, but give a fine lead to his description of the battle of Guadalajara, where General Kleber gained some spectacular successes against the foreign troops under Franco. In conclusion he deems that the Spaniard possesses something vital, that will endure whatever the result may be, whether Franco gives to the country a Fascist dictatorship, or a Left Leader emerges triumphant. He says that in the end, when the Comintern and Fascintern have fought to a finish, the Spaniard will find things much as they were before with the difference that foreign intrusion will be stronger, and will work as a disintegrating force upon Spanish civilisation. Also, that the Spaniard has values that will last through the chaos, while the progressive usurpers may progress to their own destruction. A book that will enable the average reader to more fully understand the struggle in Spain in its many phases.

**Forbidden Journey.** By Ella K. Maillart. Miss Maillart here gives us the feminine side of "News from Tartary," and though it is the same ground, it is quite a different story. Full of interest, and one shares the varied experiences of the authoress with great enjoyment and much pleasure—and admiration for her superb courage and fearlessness.

**Spice of the Sahara.** By Ex-Legionnaire 1384. This is a Foreign Legion book, with the added spice and thrill of Secret Service. This will have a great run.

**Gringo, Watch Out!** By Hans Koester. Not many men pack as much in two years as Hans Koester did, but he says it is so, and, so we read it, get our thrills, and agree with the title. Gee, Watch Out!

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**North to the Rime-ringed Sun.** By J. W. Huthison. This is a most enjoyable journey we make, and the authoress holds our close attention from first to last. We will admire her real courage in the many things she did, and will equally admire the way she tells us about them. An adventure that was full of adventure.

**My Mis-spent Youth.** By Henry Fitch. Notes and recollections, gleaned from diaries, signal logs, and scraps jotted down here, there, and anywhere. Plenty of movement, and written in a happy sailor's breezy style.

**The Face of the Earth.** By J. H. Curle. In some respects this is the best book yet from this author, perhaps best of all, he gives Britishers something to think about that might hurt a bit. Don't miss this "Curle."

**Through Wildest Papua.** By J. G. Hicks. The story of two expeditions into the heart of New Guinea, and emphasises the power of sympathetic understanding in winning the confidence of even a New Guinea head hunter.

Well worth reading.

**Stanley Baldwin.** By Arthur Bryant. A somewhat rapid glance through this study of Stanley Baldwin gave birth to the resolve to read it later on, as it deserves to be read.

## FICTION

**Child Royal.** By D. K. Broster. Heinemann. 7/6. Those who like a good tale founded on scholarly history will be glad to see Miss Broster again in the field. There are numberless stories already of Mary of Scots, of her brief unhappy reign or her long imprisonment. Here, however, is something more unusual—a tale of the happy years of her French childhood, when she was the betrothed of the little Dauphin. It was a less happy time for Ninian Graham, a gentleman-archer of the French King's Scots Guard, and for Magdalen Lindsay, the little Queen's maid of honour. The crux of the tale is a plot to poison Queen Mary, as in actual historic fact was once attempted; and since Ninian and his bride are both, through no fault of their own, involved, their careers nearly come to an unpleasant end. Miss Broster, the Cardinal de Lorraine, and a French river intervene, however, and an ingenious twist restores their fortunes.

The historical background, as always with this writer, is carefully accurate. King Henri, the smooth, neglected Florentine Queen, the enigmatic Diane de Poitiers, her temporary rival Lady Fleming, the Cardinal de Lorraine, his sister the Queen Dowager of Scot, the pitiful and spirited little Dauphin, the charming Reinette, and her quartet of Maries, all play their parts as the story moves from Dumbarton to Roscoff, St. Germain to Blois, Anet to Chateaubriant, through a pattern of pageantry and court intrigues.

—Times Literary Supplement.

**Mystery Cruise.** By Taffrail (Captain Taprell Dorling). Hodder and Stoughton. 7/6. Edward Norwell preferred gun-running or dabbling in civil wars and revolutions to the hum-drum existence of an officer of a passenger liner. So he organised an expedition in the steamer Varuna, under his own command and manned chiefly by British hands, though flying the flag of a small Baltic State, to supply a cargo of arms to the insurgents in Spain. In the Channel he rescued from a burning yacht a prominent politician and his daughter Clarissa. They were agents of the opposite Spanish faction on board, who first nearly succeeded in blowing up the ship, then betrayed her whereabouts to the warship on the look-out for her, and finally kidnapped Clarissa and held her as a hostage. However, the villains were shot in a stirring scrap, and Clarissa reunited to her buccaneer. The thrill peters out to rather a lame end, though the nautical local colour is, of course, unimpeachable.

**Lenient God.** By Naomi Jacobs, is a charming story, rich in humour, in humanity, in beauty, and the stern common sense that Yorkshire people impart into the most farcical surroundings. Bill Warren is hero—a Yorkshireman. Warren, striving for higher education, is the victim of a rotten young schoolmaster in childhood; he tries to please his father by becoming a grocer, but hates it, and has a pleasant interlude as chauffeur to a charming and pathetic young man who dies. He falls in love with his ideal woman, who cannot marry him, and is saved the despair that might have seized him by his mother's staunch friendship, his queer old grandmother, and his rather foolish brother.

Every character in the book is vivid, and Miss Jacobs has written nothing better than this story of simple, rather humble people, and her new book should enhance her reputation as a creator of character and a gripping storyteller.

—Vide Times Literary Supplement.

## SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

An Infamous Army .....Georgette Heyer  
Be Patient with Love .....Guy Trent  
Be Gentle with Love .....Sylvia Sark  
Black Virgin .....Mary Borden  
Bobo Marcks .....W. B. M. Ferguson  
Bury Him Deeper .....R. A. J. Walling  
By Breathless Ways .....Ben Bolt  
The Candle Virgins .....Mrs Baillie Saunders  
Child Royal .....D. K. Broster  
The Crooked Furrow .....Jeffery Farnol  
Dangerous Years .....Gilbert Frankau  
Dark Valley .....Jackson Gregory  
Death in Downing Street .....J. G. Brandon  
Decree Absolute .....Sonia Dean  
Deep Summer .....Gwen Bristow  
Deep West .....Ernest Haycox

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The Girl in the News ..... Roy Vickers  
God and Mr Aaronson ..... Countess Barcynska  
Guncotton Ace High ..... R. Grayson  
Having no Hearts ..... G. Goodchild  
Her Father's Wish ..... Effie A. Rowlands  
Hell Let Loose ..... Francis Beeding  
The Homesteaders ..... Hugh Pendexter  
Hot Dog ..... G. C. Foster  
The House in the Hills ..... L. W. Meynell  
Hunted ..... Geo. Gibbs  
I've Been to London ..... Temple Bailey  
Jewels in the Dust ..... Joan Conquest  
The Joyous Peddler ..... Sophie Cole  
Jungle Night ..... Marie B. Petersen  
Kiss a Stranger ..... R. S. McNamara  
The Lenient God ..... Naomi Jacobs  
The Lost King ..... R. Sabatini  
Marvels of Mayfair ..... Eliz. Frayne  
Merrywood ..... Emmeline Morrison  
Mirella ..... Isabel C. Clarke  
The Mortal Storm ..... Phyllis Bottome  
The Nailed Door ..... Errol Fitzgerald  
The Coffins in China ..... Charman Edwards  
No Hearts to Break ..... Susan Ertz  
No Turning Back ..... W. F. Morris  
Nutmeg Tree ..... Margaret Sharp  
One Thrilling Night ..... Norman Berrow  
The One Who Counted ..... E. M. Albanesi  
A Question of Honour ..... E. W. Savi  
The Pretty One ..... Maysie Greig  
Rider at Rocky Ford ..... Christopher Cully  
Saturday Star ..... Deirdre O'Brien  
Secret Lover ..... Edith Nepean  
Seven Seas Murder ..... Van Wyck Mason  
Seventh Wave ..... Olive Wadsley  
Something Rich ..... Joan Butler  
The Story of Rosabelle Shaw ..... D. E. Stevenson  
The Streak ..... Max Brand  
The Square Peg ..... John Masefield  
Thieves' Picnic ..... Leslie Charteriss  
The Very House ..... Mazo de la Roche  
Who Killed Cromwell ..... L. R. Gribble  
The Woman at the Door ..... Warwick Deeping  
Women in Love ..... May Christie

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