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NOTES FOR CONSUMERS

Probably one of the greatest errors the consumer makes is to assume that the judiciary of the land can and does protect his rights and interests. At the present time there is no group of laws specifically designed for the ultimate buyer's protection. When they are presented, the consumer's claims are settled under any phase of the law that might conceivably apply to the specific situation at hand. A case frequently can be argued on any one of several grounds and the decision will depend upon the charge made. If the consumer were poisoned by eating cream puffs made from decomposed frozen eggs, he could sue the baker for breach of warranty or he could charge negligence. If the former charge was made, he might lose the case; if the charge was negligence, the

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Reader's Alley

We have found, since reviewing Mr. McConaughy's novel of college life (*A Village Chronicle*) that there are numerous people on this campus who prefer their "college" straight; that is unadorned with fiction. The past has been rich in first-class histories, intimate memoirs, perspectives, and interpretations of academic life. The volumes are the work of outstanding professors.

The most recent book of the sort has just come from the Harvard Press. It is entitled *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936*. The author is Samuel Eliot Morison. He has, in a single volume, condensed his *Tercentennial History*, the published volumes to date recounting the history of the institution up to 1770. Professor Morison doesn't claim that Harvard is perfect, or that there was ever a period during which it escaped one sort of academic blight or another. He does, however, analyze expertly the way in which the college has continuously approximated the aims and goals set up at the time of its founding. Sketched with both satire and humor are the collegians of every era. He has probed the forces that produced such scholars as Emerson, Holmes, Thoreau, Agassiz, William James, Santayana, and Kittredge. The Eliot elective system, the recent "house and tutor" experiment, and all the other steps that have kept Harvard in the forefront of American colleges, are discussed without bias, and without sentimentality.

Of a slightly more biographical turn, but tying up and comparing life at Harvard, Williams, and Princeton, is Bliss Perry's *And Gladly Teach*. Professor Perry started his studies at Williams, completed them at Harvard, taught at both institutions, and sandwiched a teaching hour at Princeton during Woodrow Wilson's leadership between his years at the New England schools. His recollections of student and faculty life, together with a fascinating account of his editorship of *The Atlantic Monthly*, make most absorbing reading for anyone in the profession of teaching.

A third contemporary study, this time of Yale, is to be found in Henry Seidel Canby's *Alma Mater*. Not long after Canby's graduation, he joined the New Haven faculty, at the turn of the century, and herein he relays observations of his associates, pupils, and the college in general. His classification of types of teachers, students, good and bad, will evoke frowns and chuckles, for readers will see their co-workers neatly catalogued, and they will frequently wonder in just which category they themselves belong.

If you want a lighter dose of the college-in-review, get hold of a June *Harper's*, and read Louis Adamic's enthusiastic article on Black Mountain College, and a critique of his remarks (in the same issue) by Bernard DeVoto. If you don't happen to recall having heard of Black Mountain, you might remember a recent faculty squabble at Hamilton Holt's Rollins College, which resulted in the resignation of several professors,

half-truth and the shrewdly worded "putt." Moreover, it is extremely doubtful whether drastic legal reforms can ever eliminate the administrative defects of law or eradicate the characteristic evils of modern business practice.

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The Aetna Steering Test



Statistics Show That Men Are Better Drivers Than Women

Among Summer Sessions student drivers men are superior in driving ability to women, according to statistics revealed through the Aetna Highway Safety demonstration, which has been open in the Armory during the past week. These figures were taken from tests given to 906 student drivers, from July 9 to 14 inclusive.

Drivers submitted to four tests, which measured ability to distinguish colors, reaction-time, glare resistance, speed estimation and steering coordination. In each of the tests, except the color test, men showed a decided superiority over women drivers.

Male reaction time among the one third of the Summer Sessions student body tested is faster than female time. For instance, in taking the reaction time test, 55 per cent of the 612 men tested can move their feet from the gas peddle to the brake in one-half second while only 18 per cent of 294 women tested hit the half-second mark. None of the men tested took as long as three-fourths of a second to hit the brake, but it took that time for four-tenths of the women drivers to respond.

Women, however, showed a decided superiority over men in the traffic light color test. In distinguishing colors, women scored 100 per cent, while a small percentage of men tested showed red-green color-blindness. But glaring headlights are more apt to affect women than men drivers.

who thereupon founded an experimental, cooperative college in an unused structure owned by the Y. M. C. A. The *New York Times* showed some interesting pictures of the activities in the "iodine section" a few weeks ago.

If you are just a beginner at this business of finding out what college is all about, we suggest for your primer, Abraham Flexner's *Universities, American, English, German* (1930). And, if you still prefer your collegiana in fictional form, you must not miss Santayana's *The Last Puritan*. —R. E. G.

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scores while only eight-tenths per cent of the women were entirely accurate. None of the men were more than six units above the average error in speed estimation while 1.7 per cent of the women erred as much as nine units, or seven above the two-unit average error.

Women are also inferior to campus men in steering coordination according to the results chalked up on the steering test.

Dr. Grace S. Dodson

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