

Until quite recent times, Chinese novels were looked upon as a low branch of literature, because they treated only of human life, and it was customary to preface each novel with a moral allegory to rest the author's conscience.

More than 6,000,000 died in India alone in the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919.

Dairy-Department To Give Tester's Course

Advance registrations indicate that thirty to thirty-five men will attend the short course in testing milk and dairy products to be given by the department of dairy husbandry July 27, 28, and 29.

An examination for those who desire to apply for a state license will be conducted July 30 by a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

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Reflector Attracts Star-gazers on Lab. Roof

Approximately 200 people have visited Penn State's embryology laboratory atop Buckhout Laboratory building in the last two weeks to take a look at the stars through the ten-inch reflector type telescope, and hundreds more star gazers are expected to probe about the roof of the laboratory this summer.

The planet Jupiter is visible in the evening sky about 9 o'clock, with four of its moons in view. Later on toward the end of the summer, Saturn will appear early enough to give casual observers an opportunity to examine one of the most distinctive phenomena in the solar system.

Already the list of astronomical equipment is growing, and campus astronomers are building an observatory which will eventually work in conjunction with the Harvard observatory.

Among the instruments already purchased for astronomical observation are the telescope, a meridian transit and a star-time chronometer. The telescope was built two years ago by Henry L. Yeagley, of the physics department. Dr. Yeagley ground the original ten-inch mirror and designed the gear parts for instruments. Recently the mirror has been aluminized by a process which Dr. Yeagley has developed.

The meridian transit, a small, telescopic instrument used for measurement, has not yet been completed but is mounted on the roof of the building. The star-time chronometer is placed in a compartment below the roof. It resembles a glass pendulum clock, but is designed for a higher degree of accuracy than the ordinary chronometer. It tells star time, which is used as a basis of measurement instead of standard time. At approximately 10:57 E. S. T., the star-time chronometer points to 5:20 as Jupiter nears the meridian. The observatory also hopes to get an astrographic camera for use in variable star research with Harvard.

Plans for the observatory include a full set of instruments. Eventually, the telescope, which is now mounted on the roof on a bed-rock axis, will be lowered within the building and a part of the roof will be cut away.

The telescope itself is the key instrument. It is capable of magnifications beyond 270, but for practical use now a magnification of 180 is seldom exceeded. High magnifications can be used only in clear, cold weather when there is a minimum of moisture in the air, since in magnifying the objective the moisture drops in the air also become magnified and obstruct vision.

Summer Session students are invited to climb up to the roof of Buckhout Laboratory and peer through the

NOTES FOR CONSUMERS

The effect of the public school system on the consumer is as interesting as it is deplorable. Here, as in the case of other public institutions, public policy is deemed to be synonymous with commercial welfare. As a result, the schoolroom has been transformed from an educational institution into a highly organized agency for the indoctrination of the student along lines that are conventionally profitable to private enterprise. It is probably no exaggeration to say that there are not a score of secondary or high schools in the country in which a teacher would be permitted to denounce prevailing commercial practices or to disparage any product by name, however deleterious its nature or fraudulent its claims. Even to conduct an experimental analysis of well-known branded products is to court a reprimand from the Board of Education. And to suggest that the student be given a systematic training in commercial fraud detection would ultimately end in the instructor's dismissal.

The fact that such training would have great practical value for most of the students is of no consequence. Although most of the girls will eventually marry and have as their chief economic function the important and difficult task of expending an inadequate family income, they are deprived of their one chance to learn efficient buying methods because the school is a public, and therefore a commercially oriented, institution.

Although it is everywhere apparent that the average man's chances of materially expanding his income are slight, the whole educational system emphasizes the boy's training as a producer and ignores his function as a consumer. And although the economic structure is in a desperate plight from unprofitable overproduction, the modern educator stresses productivity with an enthusiasm equalled only by his indifference to the problems of efficient consumption. Nowhere have the ideals and attitudes of the 18th century been better preserved. There is, in fact, something ironic about this academic insistence on production while the nation's advertising bill becomes greater each year and the federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually to keep farmers from producing and unemployed industrial workers from starving.

But the productive tradition persists. Schlink has very reasonably asked why the student taking a so-called cultural course in manual training should be required to make such unneeded objects as tie racks or hammered copper letter openers when he might be taught something of the relative merits of woods and finishes in anticipation of the time when he will be buying furniture for his own household.

The typical Department of Home Economics is even more inconsistent in using its laboratories and classrooms as a point from which to distribute literally tons of commercial advertising. Something of the extent of this practice may be gathered from an inspection of the "educational" activities of one company. By 1935 the California Fruit Growers Exchange had distributed:

1,546,427 copies of SunKist bulletins to domestic science teachers.
16,692 colored posters to elementary school art and health classes.
16,741 educational wall charts to commercial geography classes.
15,000 copies of a syllabus on California's citrus industry to elementary grade teachers.

And, in addition, 10,102 SunKist recipe file cabinets were sold to girls in high school home-making classes. The effectiveness of such advertising can be imagined. The loss to the students as consumers of SunKist oranges can be more accurately computed on the basis of the statement in *Printer's Ink* that SunKist citrus fruits cost the consumer 43½ cents more a box than any other fruit that is "physically identical with it but sold by less well organized marketing agencies."

Here lies the significance of the public schools to the consumer. The school-age years are the formative years when life-long action patterns are in many cases established. The school teacher literally molds the attitudes, habits and convictions of the student and therefore has it in her power to foster or mar the economic welfare of millions of people. By accepting without question the assertions of commercial profit-seeking agencies, and by directly or indirectly giving her uncritical approval to their products, she inevitably encourages the students' confidence in wasteful

telescope if their interest in stargazing will stand a three-story climb up iron ladders. The roof will be open for visitors Tuesday and Friday nights, if the weather is clear, from 9 to 11 o'clock. Appointments may be made to visit the observatory through Howard S. Coleman, of the physics department, who is in charge, by calling the department office. Entrance to the building at night can be made only through the lower door at the rear of the laboratory.

In conjunction with its astronomical program, the physics department plans to give courses in astronomy during the regular session because of the success of these courses during the Summer Session, according to Coleman. Funds for the observatory have been raised by the physics department and the class of 1936.

Dr. Lininger To Conduct Survey

College Professor Will Observe Consumers' Cooperatives In Europe.

A study of European marketing and consumer cooperatives will be made during the next two months by Dr. Fred F. Lininger, professor of agricultural economics, here.

Dr. Lininger sailed Friday from New York for Glasgow where the headquarters of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale society are located. He will then visit Edinburgh where St. Cuthbert's Cooperative society operates department stores, creameries, laundries, and truck farms.

In England, Dr. Lininger will inspect five cooperatives at Manchester, visit Rochdale, the cradle of consumers' cooperation, and then go to Denmark, to observe methods of rural purchasing and marketing cooperatives, cooperative houses and stores, and cooperative wholesale societies.

Several days will be spent in Finland and Sweden studying the Swedish Cooperative Wholesale and Educational Union, cooperative retail shops, flour mills, bakeries, factories, and workers' homes.

Dr. Lininger will devote some time to observing cooperative societies in Russia, among them the Russian Union of Consumers Cooperative societies, the only pre-revolutionary institution remaining in the country.

Late in August and early in September Dr. Lininger will attend the Fourth International Conference of Agricultural Economics at St. Andrews, Scotland.

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buying methods and destroys any incipient tendencies to objective evaluation of goods and services. She misinforms her students because she has inadequately informed them.

The effect of this educational process on consumers' choice cannot be overstated. It justifies the *status quo*. It confirms the average student's illusions with regard to his dominant economic role and interests. And it fails utterly to prepare him for adjustment to an economic system in which his sole hope for the satisfaction of his wants lies in most cases in the efficient use of his income. As in the

case of other public agencies, the net effect is usually to the consumers' disadvantage.

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