

The Readers' Alley—

A Recipe For Ice-Cold Relaxation: Read 'Kabloonah,' Tale Of The Arctic

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If the heat has you down, you might try a psychological cooler entitled KABLOONA by Gondran de Poncins, a tale of the Arctic written in as descriptive prose as has appeared since St. Exupery's WIND, SAND, AND STARS. De Poncins can make you feel the cold so that you'll shiver when the atmosphere is 10, er, well 89, anyway.

Fed up with the mockery of "civilization," this young Frenchman decided that the only way to recapture his composure and self-confidence was to spend a year in the land of the Eskimo, away from white men with black hearts. He trekked across the frozen wastes, ate the primitive fare of the ever-sharing natives, bucked blizzards until he nearly perished, and grew so much like the Eskimo that he was embarrassed when he returned to meet white men. But he got out his book and is now in the U. S. A. So, if you would like to feel wintry blasts, blink in the glare of the sun on the snow, learn why one has to crawl out of his furs so that they won't freeze to his skin during his sleep—Brrrr, KABLOONA is your ice cream.

As long as we are stumbling around in what might be called "far-corners" this week, we are happy to suggest a volume that will let you in on some real heat. Perhaps you can react to LETTER OF CREDIT by Jerome Weidman as we did when he portrayed his bodily discomfort in the heat of high noon while sailing at two knots an hour through the Suez Canal. We decided we didn't know what Hades was. Still, if laughter makes you perspire, skip the candid camera shot of his room at the Hamiston, in London, "no larger than the closet in which we kept the Passover dishes, home in the Bronx. The mattress had been stuffed with the leftovers of the framework of the Empire State Building. The rug was woven from porcupine quills and bottle tops. As for the linen, it hadn't been changed since the last drummer who used a powerful and odoriferous hair-restorer had reclined on the pillow." Mr. Weidman, author of those rough-and-tough modern classics, I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE and WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME, took a

trip around the world on his royalties—not the Cook's Tour sort of travel, but hit or miss, stay or go, a take pot luck as it comes. He met some grand and some terrible people, but he never loses his sense of humor for long. He catches the tension of war over Europe, the Near and the Far East in fine fashion.

Another hot-weather platter is served up by Negley Farson in his BEHIND GOD'S BACK, or through darkest Africa in a Ford. As a nationally famous reporter, Farson investigates life among the black and white men from Cape Town up to Uganda, Kenya, and the Congo area. With his wife as his only companion, he talked with traders, missionaries, military men from England, France, and Germany. He has brought back some rare tales of rest and unrest among the natives and the supervisors. With the dark continent as a prize fought over by the Nazis, the Fascists, and the British, there are endless pages of fascinating fact that give you an idea of why this vast preserve is a plum for any nation's colonizers.

As long as we were at it, we thought we might as well go on to China, and we did, with Carl Crow's FOREIGN DEVILS IN THE FLOWERY KINGDOM, a graphic exposition of life among the teeming millions of Yellow men and the history of trade since the advent of Marco Polo to the present, with Japan's bombs driving the "fank-wie" or foreign devils back to their own bailiwicks in Britain, America, or wherever they can get in the present turmoil. Having dwelt along the China Coast for over thirty years, Crow is well informed not only about the meeting of the East and the West, but about their habits of living, carrying on trade, and the saving of face, both saffron and white. Again, you meet everybody who is anybody, and you learn that marriageable women are so scarce that the men, eligible bachelors, have to pool their lives in clubs in order to eat decently; and when they do find mates from the Occident, these "proper missie" never need to do a bit of kitchen work or household cleaning. That's the life for a real ladye, if you'd ask us.

Werner Sees War Personnel Man Diverging Authors On Defense Staff

Commenting on the immediate effects of war on literature, Prof. L. Werner, English Literature, department, said: "War increases the price of paper, causes publishers and magazines to fail, and turns people's attention from the enjoyment of literature and other arts to the thrills of casualty lists. It diverts authors from their writing."

He remarked that war draws authors from their artistry and shifts them to such things as relief work, the army, jail, and worse—death.

As for the later or after effects of war on literature, Werner said, "The argument that war stimulates literature has never been proved. Army life and warfare are brutalizing forces that destroy artistic sensitivity."

Werner then intimated that the argument "war is good because it produces great literature" is as sensible as saying that starvation is good because it produced the "Grapes of Wrath."

"There is no evidence," concluded Werner, "that plowing under half a generation of writers on a battlefield will improve the crop of survivors."

Dr. Joseph W. Bird, former director of personnel at Babson Institute and lecturer at Simmons College, has been added to the College staff. Dr. Bird will be in charge of personnel co-ordination for the college's engineering defense training program.

As head of personnel, Dr. Bird will direct placement in the program training more than 14,000 men for skilled jobs in Pennsylvania industry under the emergency defense program.

Penn State's engineering defense training program is the largest of its kind in the country, operating in 100 towns and cities in Pennsylvania. It is part of the federally financed program being conducted in 138 engineering colleges throughout the country under the supervision of the U. S. Office of Education.

Dr. Bird was connected with Babson Institute for more than four years, and with Simmons for more than two years. He has taught at Boston University, College of the City of New York, New York University, Oklahoma University and is a trustee and secretary of the New England Vocational Guidance Association and a member of the American College Personnel Association.



ENGLISH CHANNEL was formed "only yesterday," says Dean Edward Steidle of the School of Mineral Industries. He says that an elevation of only 120 feet would unite England and the continent of Europe and provide a path for Hitler's Nazis.

England Is Lucky, Dean Steidle Says

The English Channel, which so far has prevented the Germans from invading England, was formed "only yesterday" from a geological point of view, according to Dean Edward Steidle, dean of the School of Mineral Industries.

This separation of Great Britain from the mainland of Europe, without which the development of the British people and the British Empire might not have taken place, was one of the most significant events in the geological history of the world, Dean Steidle pointed out.

"The most remarkable thing about this simple event which has had so much influence is its extreme youth," he said. "While the data we have indicates that the separation may have taken place some 5,000 years ago, even now an elevation of only 120 feet would unite England and the continent again."

The division of the land mass was connected with changes in the pattern of the earth which took place near the end of the last great invasion of ice in Europe. Subsidence of the land resulted in the flooding of basins in which the North Sea and the Baltic Sea appeared. Contemporaneously the narrow strip of land between what are now France and England was submerged and flooded.

"The result of this submergence created a moat which has always been the bulwark of the defense of England," Dean Steidle explained. "Its importance today as a defender of the hopes of democracy cannot be overexaggerated, and obviously its existence also influences the daily life of all Americans."

Housing Authorities Hold Meeting Here

The Pennsylvania Association of Housing Authorities met at the Pennsylvania State College on Saturday to discuss defense housing.

Principal speaker was Clark Foreman, director of defense housing for the Federal Works Agency. Defense housing accounts for more than 80 per cent of the \$40,000,000 public housing program now scheduled or under way in Pennsylvania.

Defense Class Graduates At Pittsburgh

A class of 94, the first to finish its special technical training under the engineering defense training program of The Pennsylvania State College, has been graduated at Pittsburgh.

The classes are sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education, and were originally formed to train men to meet the shortage of skilled labor in industry.

74 Students Win Places On Education Honor Roll

Seventy-four students in the School of Education who earned a scholastic average of 2.5 or better during the past semester were named yesterday on the Dean's Honor Roll.

Twenty-seven of the students were graduated at June commencement. There are nearly 1,000 students in the School of Education.

College Has Own Time Capsule

Penn State's own "time capsule"—a little less elaborate and extensive than the famed history coffer that was buried at the New York World's Fair—is located eight or nine feet above the ground at the southeast corner of Old Main.

Unknown to most of the undergrads, this so-called time capsule may be better recognized if referred to as the Old Main cornerstone, which was laid in midwinter, January 4, 1930.

Measuring 27 inches long, 12 inches high, and 16 inches wide, the cornerstone contains 66 articles pertaining to College life and history. Among the Literary "masterpieces" included in the collegiate crypt are the College Catalogue, student directory, issues of the Collegian, Froth, Old Main Bell, Penn State Farmer, and Penn State Engineer.

Photographs also make up a large part of the historic but unexhibited collection. "Pix" of John S. Fisher, governor of Pennsylvania, President Ralph D. Hetzel, and prominent student government leaders in 1929 are only a few of the many that are buried in the cornerstone which formed the basis of reconstruction following a disastrous fire that gutted the original building.

The oddity angle of the collection centers about two coins—one dated 1857 to represent the beginning of the original Old Main, and the other dated 1929 to mark the beginning of rebuilding.

Parking

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Under a student licensing plan, which went into operation in 1936, students who keep or operate automobiles on the campus are required to buy license tags, priced at 25 cents each, at the Campus Patrol office, Room 320 Old Main. These permits may be suspended or revoked for violation of campus or borough parking and traffic laws.

Announcements

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THURSDAY, JULY 10

2:30 p. m. Conference on instruction. Room 121, Sparks Building.

2:30 p. m. Meeting of Industrial Education Dames in Frances Atherton Hall.

8:30 p. m. Lecture, "China's Fight for Civilization," by Col. M. Thomas Tchou, former private secretary to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Schwab Auditorium.

NOTICES

General office hours during July and August are 8 a. m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p. m.

The first meeting of the class in social dancing will be held at 7 p. m., July 8, in White Hall.

An 8,000,000-volt atom-smashing machine is under construction at the University of Notre Dame.

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