

Betts Warns Of Bad Eye Habits

If you are near-sighted, it is not because you were born that way, but because you formed bad reading habits in your youth, recent investigations have shown.

"Many people believe that near-sightedness is caused by a long eyeball and far-sightedness by a short one," Dr. Emmett A. Betts, director of the reading clinic, said. "However, recent studies in various medical and educational clinics show that there is no such thing as myopia or hyperopia within the eyeball. Instead, the cause lies in the brain."

Explaining that most near-sightedness is acquired by sacrificing far-point clearness for near-point clearness, he pointed out that a certain amount of far-sightedness in children is essential as a protection against near-sightedness.

"The structure does not have very much to do with how the eyes function," Dr. Betts added. "Therefore there is a difference between examining the shape of the eye and examining the ability to see."

Since the cause of the trouble often lies in the brain, and since seeing is an act which has been learned, some cases can be treated more satisfactorily from a psycho-physiological approach than from a mechanical approach, he contends.

The College reading clinic is therefore working on the question for the purpose of helping teachers who are interested in the effects of visual handicaps on a pupil's ability to study and from the point of view of industrial leaders who are interested in the visual ability of a worker to do his job.

Students at the University of Rochester are experimenting with a combined junior yearbook for their co-ordinate college.

There are 928 semi-circular arches in the main barracks of The Citadel, South Carolina military college.

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The Readers' Alley—

Reviewer Admits He's Choosy And Doesn't Like Everything

By ROBERT E. GALBRAITH
Associate Professor of English Composition

People have been asking us if we like ALL the books we read, for they so seldom see a line of panning in this alley. No, we don't like all the books, but we have rarely seen one that didn't have something to recommend it. We just get choosy before we romp home with an evening's opus, and when we do come across one for which we can not muster even a faint whoop, we just forget about it. One of our challengers, however, said that he once tore up a volume of Thornton Wilder's merely because he didn't think his wife ought to waste her time with it. That particular book wasn't very good, we agree, but it wasn't quite that bad.

If you are a perennial reader of the New York Times Book Review and Magazine Sections, you have already clucked your tongue over the drawings and interviews of prominent people by S. J. Woolf. So many of his friends said, "You meet such a lot of interesting people," that Woolf decided to assemble many of these portraits and hitherto unprinted comments about the contemporary great. Bookshelves are therefore heavy with his autobiographical volume, **HERE AM I**.

Born on the East Side and a New Yorker almost all his life, Sam, from the days when he showed talent for painting in the Gay Nineties, is able to catch the evanescent flavor of a city childhood, and keep pace with the times and changes up to the present. A graduate of CCNY (which then had its campus on 23rd Street) he afterward attended a dozen art schools before he struck out for himself. During these early years of struggle and privation, including the trials of a secret marriage to a shiksa (a Christian girl) he met almost every living painter, illustrator and cartoonist both worthless and famous. His memories of these intimate associations are reason to make this book required reading for every art student on this campus. Prior to the first World War, he had numerous commissions for portraits that won prizes and now hang in famous collections. It was after he had sketched George Bernard Shaw

that a Times editor asked him to submit an article to accompany the picture. So, for the last two decades, Woolf has been meeting teachers like Dewey, industrialists like Ford and Knudsen, poets such as Masefield and Tagore, novelists of the rank of Lewis and Mann, and artists the calibre of Dali and Disney. By some strange personal approach, which Sam does not himself understand, he was able to probe somewhat more deeply into the personalities of our time than many a current biographer, and we know you will like some of the facets of character that he is able to cut and polish.

In order to get a bit of atmosphere into our comments on **FATHER OF THE BLUES** by W. C. Handy, the famous Negro musician, we are listening to Basin Street Chamber Music program (9 p.m. Mondays). Mr. Handy, in writing his autobiography, gives an interesting account of that sentimental era in our national musical history known as the "Blues." True, this is a narrow segment in the evolution of swing; but because Handy played in dozens of bands, composed scores of blues, and was a leader of his race, we think you will find numerous interesting summaries on the times and the people from his special viewpoint. What we liked most about this personal history is the steady rise and fall of each year of Handy's struggle, for, with each surge of success, there seemed to come a wave of recession. Born in Florence, Alabama, the son of a preacher, into a family that scorned music of the sort the young Handy liked, he struck out for himself, a "young man with a horn," the cornet being his first instrument. During his later years, when blindness overcame him, he made a living at the piano. (We heard him a dozen or more times around the town). A particularly moving chapter concerns the plight of the Negro, entitled "Trouble, Trouble..."

Although W. C. Handy is mentioned only twice in **JAZZMEN**, that interesting anthology of current masters of swing that contains a sketch of Bix Beiderbeck by our own campus authority, Professor E. J. Nichols, he merits a distinct place in the annals of pre-swing music. So, you players of the sad and gay notes up at Varsity Hall, you might look over this book. We think you'll enjoy your "Memphis Blues" a bit more the next time you blare it.

Not that we expected to find any short-cuts toward a fortune, but just as a guide to tell us what to do with our first million, we sailed into John T. Flynn's **MEN OF WEALTH**. We have long followed Mr. Flynn's articles on current financial affairs, but we now wave our hats as we view this parade of biographical mammoths. In clear, readable prose, he has portrayed the lives and activities of a dozen wampum-wizards. Aside from those recent magnificos, Rockefeller and Morgan, there are such tycoons as Cornelius Vanderbilt, Cecil Rhodes, Mark Hanna, the Mitsuis, Hetty Green, Basil Zaharoff, and Nathan Rothschild. Though Flynn attempts to be objective, his writings are devastating indictments of the men and their methods.

If you want a quick taste of this volume, skim through the brief interlogues (there are only three) until you come to the one on the money that writers have made. (We read this chapter twice, but we doubt if it will help us much—though it should be useful information to English Majors.) There have been other writers who pilloried our magnates, but none we have read has succeeded in doing the job so thoroughly or so interestingly. Who said "required reading for C & F students?" We did.

Solve U. S. Problems, Philip LaFollette Says

(Continued from Page One)

Europe but will perhaps "have lost the last vestige of it here."

4. He said that we are faced at home with grave economic problems and that we should try to solve them rather than enter the war. He foresaw the possibility of a dictatorship in the United States.

He also gave two main risks we will run if we stay out of the war. They are:

1. Economic competition with Germany. LaFollette minimized this danger by stating that our foreign trade makes up only 7 or 8 per cent of our total volume of trade, adding, "We don't want to wreck 93 per cent of our trade to save 7 per cent."

2. Invasion of the United States. He said that there is no military evidence which shows that this country can be invaded and said that the idea is ridiculous. He pointed out that the Nazis have been unable to invade England which is separated from German bases by only 20 miles of water, instead of 3,000 miles of ocean as is America.

The New York Library Club reports that with the exception of Hunter College, library facilities of the city's four college are inadequate.

Movie Helps Job-Seekers

Many of Pennsylvania's unemployed are "going to the movies" to find a job.

To teach jobless students in engineering defense training courses the proper interview technique, the College is using a movie film, Dr. Joseph W. Bird, in charge of placement for the emergency program announced.

The film, entitled "I Want A Job," has been shown to men taking special part-time courses with the College. It will be shown also to more than 3,000 high school graduates who are preparing for defense jobs by taking summer courses in introductory engineering subjects in 98 cities and towns in Pennsylvania.

In addition, Dr. Bird said, these groups have received a booklet, "Get That Job," to guide them in their job-seeking, and in all courses are given special instructions for getting placed.

The Engineering Defense Training program now has under training in both day and evening courses nearly 20,000 young men and women. Schooling is provided by federal funds under the sponsorship of the United States Office of Education to create a reservoir of trained workers for the defense industries.



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