

farm will soon be a potent factor in making attractive rural life is not an idle dream. Developments of electrical machinery are rapidly progressing and are expected to be of special value in view of the shortage of farm labor, and the use of labor-saving devices in rural communities where it is gradually becoming a necessity to simplify domestic work.

#### "ON THE CULTURAL LIFE OF MODERN AMERICA"

WHILE MANY Americans have read with great interest Knut Hamsun's "Growth of the Soil" in translation to English, from the author's native language, few are familiar with the fact that Hamsun, in 1899, after his return from America to Norway, published a book in Norwegian under the title "On the Cultural Life of Modern America."

In this volume, which has not been translated, but nevertheless may be found in the Norwegian language on the shelves of some American public libraries, the Norwegian novelist and future winner of the Nobel prize, wrote some thirty years ago a criticism of the same general tendencies and conditions which Sinclair Lewis satirized in his book "Gopher Prairie."

Describing the Minneapolis public library Mr. Hamsun, in one part of his book, commends it for its ample supply of almanacs, congressional debates and patent reports, asserting that one would ask in vain for the books of Conte, Hartmann, Schopenhauer, Bourget and Zola.

If Hamsun today should walk into the Minneapolis public library or any modern American public library his views on "Cultural Life in America" from the standpoint of the library shelves, at least, would call for a radical revision of his earlier opinion. The American public library of today, if taken as a criterion of the "Cultural Life of the Americans," will satisfy the most exacting critic and he will be able in most instances to find the works of his favorite authors.

America is a wide expanse with a large conglomerate of peoples largely from the less cultured stratas of life in foreign countries who have shown very little interest in accepting the cultural standards of America as preferable to their own importations. The consequence is that the cultural America, as such, is as yet a living force in the lives of only a small minority of the people who claim this country, at least in name, as their own.

#### TIME ZONES IN AMERICA

WHEN YOU travel east from the west coast of America you experience at certain intervals that your time piece is behind the time a half an hour, an hour, two hours and keeps on losing time every so often, as you compare the train time and the time of day at the way stations. Move from east to west and you will discover that in the same proportion your time piece is gaining by hours and that eventually as the distance traveled increases you will be hours ahead. In the same proportion day and night will advance on you or lag behind.

If we should be exact in the matter of time we

would have thousands of time zones between the Pacific and the Atlantic, changing the time every hundred miles or so, according to the westward course of the sundial, which controls the day of the earth, distributing it equally and fairly to all the earthly inhabitants around the globe in proportion to the latitudes they inhabit, from the equator to the frigid zones, north or south, as far as the sun rays have made human habitation possible.

The time zones in the United States are fixed by geographically described boundaries. The standard eastern time zone is from the Atlantic ocean to a line through Sandusky and Mansfield, and between Columbus, and Zanesville, Ohio, thence through Huntington, West Virginia; Norton, Virginia; Johnson City, Tennessee; Asheville, North Carolina; Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, and Apalachicola, Florida. Standard Central time zone is from this first line to a line through Mandan, North Dakota; Pierre, South Dakota; McCook, Nebraska; Dodge City, Kansas, and along the western boundary of Oklahoma and Texas. Standard Mountain Zone is from the second line to a line that forms the western boundary of Montana, and thence passes through Pocatello, Idaho; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; Parker and Yuma, Arizona.

Neighbors on the opposite sides of these line boundaries can not readily understand why they are an hour behind or ahead with their day of one another. The explanation is that they are only on opposite sides of the demarkation line of the standard time zones.

Uncle Sam is a heavier buyer of foreign produce than most people think if they do not consult export and import statistics. More than half of the sugar consumed in the United States for instance, comes from foreign sources. Of the 5,632,599 short tons consumed during the year ending June 30, 1922, 1,348,190 tons were produced in the United States. Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Philippines supplied 1,334,553 tons and most of the remainder came from Cuba. As long as Cuban and Porto Rico sugar plantations can be worked with cheap labor, sugar raising in the United States will not be increased much beyond the present production stage, but the United States could easily raise every pound of sugar used for home consumption in this country.

Denmark has been seriously considering the abolition of capital punishment for some time. A committee appointed to draw up a new penal code, however, has decided not to abolish capital punishment, but merely change the means of execution by discarding the old Danish ax and substitute in its stead the guillotine of French fame. The Danes apparently appreciate the fact that machines have gradually come to do the work formerly done by human hands and—are doing it better.

The American Church in Berlin has discarded its silver offering plates instead using three good sized wicker baskets. Since the mark has deteriorated in value and bulky paper money has become an abundant commodity, the plates have proven far too small to hold the Sunday service collections. It takes three thousand marks to buy a pound sterling, hence the wicker baskets have been put into use.

While parking space for automobiles is having undivided attention it might be in order to consider some parking space for the pedestrian. His only parking place is within a few "safety zones" where hits don't count and in an overcrowded ambulance.