

NEW REALISM TAKES PLACE IN LITERATURE

Psychological Basis Traced to Economic Reasons.

TREND IS ANALYTICAL

Dr. Bates Believes Movement Combines Romanticism.

To the person who reads "Main Street" by Sinclair Lewis, or "Potterism" by Rose Macaulay, or any other of the novels of recent production in the field of American or English fiction, comes the distinct realization that there is developing a new school of literature, different in the extreme from any that has preceded it. Here is a new type of realism—more properly realism in a new garb, where the characters and their environment are vivisected and paraded in daily life while the reader looks on coldly, watching the "wheels go round."

Such is the new school, but it is a type of writing to which the devotees to the romantic cannot become reconciled. In a recent interview, Joseph C. Lincoln, one of the most prominent American novelists—a follower of the romantic school, declared that these novels, dealing with "the drab, every-day life, in a colorless way, will not last long as classics." He classes the new novels as an attempt of the realists to supplant the romanticists in the field of literature. Lincoln classes the present treatment as superficial, lacking in the "human" element of romanticism, which "will make Thackeray's work famous when the present books are out of print."

Dr. E. S. Brooks, head of the department of rhetoric, is inclined to disagree with the theory that the present realistic movement is incompatible with romanticism. He points out that the highest literary value is often reached through a combination of these two elements, and that much of the present work makes use of just such combinations. The analytical trend of these novels, says Professor Bates, is the development of the last ten years. Novelists have always attempted to analyze their characters, but until ten years ago, they did not have the advantage of the pathological studies made by such psychologists as Freud and his contemporaries. With these studies at hand and creating more or less interest in the literary world, the novelists took advantage and conducted their character analysis in psychological fields.

Dr. Bates pointed out that the present realistic tendency is the result of a gradual growth in the field of fiction during the last 50 years, but points out that the novelist of today is no more drab and heartless, as Lincoln avers, than the earlier novelists, such as Zola and Daudet.

In speaking of the present school of fiction, Professor H. C. Howe pointed out that present-day literature, in England and America, is primarily of a realistic nature, the vogue being set by the novels of Richardson, Fielding and Scott. The novel, says Professor Howe, is essentially, by definition, realistic, although this does not preclude the combination with the romantic.

The development of the psychological type of fiction, so popular in America at present, Professor Howe explains from a somewhat economic basis. Thirty or forty years ago, America's great problems were solved by free land. The strife between capital and labor was mitigated by the opening of new natural resources. But in the last few years, society has become so complex—that no such remedy exists. There remains, in order to solve the present problem, but the reaching of it from internal operation, rather than from external expansion. This, he says, has led the modern novelist to the attempt to cross-section, psycho-analyze, and investigate society and life as it is, in order to discover its faults and weaknesses without knowledge of which no remedy can be applied.

Eric W. Allen, dean of the school of journalism, takes issue with Mr. Lincoln's statement to the effect that the present-day realism is a cold, superficial style of fiction. Every new literary movement is, according to Dean Allen, an attempt to arrive at the essential truth of affairs. The psychological type of novel, he says, is due the modern method of doing this, and is as representative of the times as romanticism was in the day when it was vogue. To the contention that the present literature will not survive as classics, Dean Allen replies that although this fiction may not last as a type, it will have, as all other representative literature, a definite effect upon future ages. Because it is the outgrowth of the problems and methods of the times, the dean believes it should not be classed as lacking in the "human element."

The comparison made by Lincoln with Thackeray is, according to Dr. Bates, idle conjecture. For a fact, he says, Thackeray is not as popular now as he was some years ago, but no one can say for future generations, whether they will read the novels of the present day or not.

UNIVERSITY BUDGET PROVIDES RESEARCH

(Continued from Page 1.)

composed of Dr. Sheldon, Dr. Milne, Dr. Harry B. Torrey, Professor McAlister, Dr. E. C. Robbins, and Dr. Packard, acting head of the department of geology, expects to pursue the study of the Miocene cetacean found near Newport, and an investigation into the history of the toothless whales.

Where the researches of the faculty men of state universities are successful, the product is usually given to the public for free and unlimited use. In the modern interpretation of University faculty qualification, a considerable proportion of the men are expected to make their free contribution to public knowledge and use.

DEAN SHELDON TO TOUR.

Dean H. D. Sheldon, of the school of education, will take a trip to some of the colleges up the valley next week in the interests of the graduate school.

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EDUCATION SCHOOL TO MOVE SATURDAY

New Building Has Six Offices and Four Classrooms.

The school of education will move this week-end from Oregon hall to its new quarters south of the campus on Kincaid street. Three class rooms and four offices will be released in the old building, and in the new headquarters the department will have a seminar room, three large recitation and lecture rooms and six offices.

The new home of the school of education is a one-story building of brick veneer, like the building of the University high school.

The largest classroom will hold comfortably 80 or 90 students, and if necessary, as many as 125, said Dean H. D. Sheldon. Another classroom will hold 50 or 60 and the third and smallest will

accommodate 25 or 30.

Eleven classes in the school of education will meet in the new quarters, which will give comfortable accommodations to the department. The appointment bureau also has an office.

The interior of the building resembles that of the University high school. The walls are tinted a light tan, and the woodwork is light in color. Lateral windows insure good lighting for all parts of classrooms, and proper ventilation is obtained by having the windows hinged.

Classes in the department of Romance languages will occupy the space released in Oregon hall.

A dedication of the two new buildings will take place next month, Dean Sheldon said. Prominent educators of the state will be present.

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