

Critic Scores H. L. Mencken

Says Group Acts As National Bitters

(Continued from page one)

America? In a word this: everything about us is dead wrong. Our laws, our conventions, our traditions are all atrocious. The result is that "decent people are always in hot water." "Decent people" are those who are honest and brave enough to disregard conventions and institutions, Lewisohn seems to teach. "Oh for one generation freed from the three most pestiferous influences in history—the home, the church, the school." Scrap these, and America would become a more endurable place to live. Mr. Lewisohn's own oracular Borheim says this, so it must be so.

But worst of all are our marriage and divorce regulations. Awful! What do the intelligentsia as represented by Messrs. Lewisohn and Mencken want?

Beauty and Freedom, they say. But there is no getting them in the present order of things, they insist. It is a vile, vicious world, a "perfectly rotten world!" Everything that is, is wrong—especially in America. (We must except, of course, Mr. Mencken, Mr. Lewisohn and their crowd.)

So smash, crash, bang! Into the fray with bared fists, black jacks, clubbed muskets, bowie knives—anything just so you smash and hack and tear down and destroy. Smash the traditions, hack the conventions, tear down the churches; down with the universities, down with the college professor, down with everything American. Ah there is the word—American. What viler sound possible to the ears of Herr von Lewisohn and mein lieber Mencken? Americans are "hypocritical swine"—the phrase is Lewisohn's—who make dirty laws and uphold marriage, and morality, and religion, who support chautauquas and tolerate Mason, Elk, and Odd Fellow lodges, who applauded four-minute men during the war, who—who—but why go on? Enough to say that to the acute and delicate sensibilities of the Menckenites, nearly all things distinctively American are repulsive, and all these

things must disappear before there can be beauty and freedom in our land. That in brief is the sum of the teaching of these gentlemen—if not always expressed, at least implied.

And having destroyed the present ugly, where shall we find beauty and freedom? Shall we look for beauty in the dreary wilderness of Dreiserian naturalism? or in the blighting sordidness of Sherwood Andersonian discontent? Or are we rather to look for it in the deep-mouthed vulgarity of Mr. Mencken's own Heliogabalus? or in the lugubrious inanities of Mr. Lewisohn's Don Juan? The Menckenites seem to suggest that we shall.

And freedom, shall we find it in the license that would logically follow the destruction of the conventions that the Menckenites so deride? Fortunately, Mr. Lewisohn helps us here. He is inveighing against our marriage and divorce laws. "Now in the matter of sex and marriage the taboos, the prejudices, the dark, wild, irrational superstitions are so powerful that no law would touch practice. Practice must produce law."

"Practice must produce law." The inference is that the laws would then be vastly better than they are now. But Mr. Lewisohn here refutes his main argument, for from whence came the present regulations governing marriage and divorce if not from practice? Monogamy and the laws relating thereto are the outgrowth of centuries of practices, and were not created, as one might be led to believe, by the fiat of church or state, or by the word of a lot "of born fools and dirty tyrants," such as is represented by the democracy of America.

As here, so in general, the Menckenites lead themselves astray. They have made for themselves a fetish of their hatred of the unlovely in America. And now they worship their own creation blindly. As a result they do not see in wide vistas, but look upon life with a narrow, cramped vision.

They are not all wrong. There is much that is sad and hateful and unbeautiful in America; our life does at points appear mean and vicious. But isn't there much, too, that is beautiful? And why scoff at the hopeful aspiring souls who through their chautauquas, their churches, their lodges, their exhibitions of art and drama—pitiful as the Menckenites think them to be—

are searching for higher reaches and nobler views? Isn't there really more beauty in one sincere constructive effort of this kind than in all the jeers of Mr. Mencken? And in the near hysterical eagerness of our people to build schools and to endow colleges to make their sons wiser citizens and better men, isn't there something far more splendid than the ravings of Mr. Lewisohn at the "born fools" who now constitute our democracy?

Rail on, gentlemen; you are still of some use to us, for you are a challenge to the best that is in us, and you rouse us from even momentary complacency. We do not agree with you, but we understand you. You belong to that small army of impractical idealists who chafe because the millenium doesn't come in a twinkling, who do not see that the approach to perfection is through the long winding roadway of human trial and error and suffering. And not knowing, you cannot be patient. So, though others may look upon you, and call you "ass," we shall not say "ass;" but we shall know that the traditions you despise shall long outlive you, that the democracy you detest shall prevail long after your voices are but echoes, that some form of the conventional morality you so abhor shall exist until the end of time. For, know this: the conventions, the traditions, our democracy, like marriage and divorce laws, have come from the instincts and practice of the human

race in an effort to achieve, protect, and preserve the ideals that seem to be of most worth in the elevation and preservation of all mankind. And "practice," Mr. Lewisohn, "must produce laws."

Boneheads Are Best Students in College

(Continued from page one)

tasks required of a student. This is a misconception fostered by most students, who fall outside the "bonehead" class, and a few instructors. In reality, the Bonehead is the most sincere, most studious and superlatively earnest student on the campus. It is the Bonehead who reads his lessons five times. It is the Bonehead who sits up until 3 o'clock in the morning trying to comprehend facts that have the agility of Proteus to remain incomprehensible. It is the Bonehead who glues his eyes upon the instructor, attends every lecture—and finally flunks.

A "book-pounder" is a general name that has been applied in the past to a student who is found in the upper division of his class. It is taken for granted that such a position requires excess preparation. But the "excess preparation" is a characteristic of the "five" students. They are the book-pounders. They are the ones who keep up the tradition that to prepare a lesson well is to spend too much time on it. They

cannot understand that other students can prepare a lesson in one-half hour—when they have spent four.

The antithesis is true of the "better students." The best ones are the worst on the campus. Any prof, if he's honest, will tell you that. The impudent things anticipate questions, lectures, know where the prof is getting his stuff, and instead of being attentive, are actually bored by their instructors. The best students do not always get "ones"—quite the contrary. If they are interested in a subject or a professor they perform excellently (but as a rule they may be chided into saying: "Phi Beta Kappa and 'honors'! Bah!") Their studies are so light they are led to dissipate their spare time in "activities," or that mongrel referred to in faculty discussions as "outside interests." The pedagogy of a prof who can interest this type of student, and at the same time retain sympathy for the Bonehead, is to be admired.

So be it. The worst students are the best, and the best the worst. And it is written that the best shall flunk in the course of intellectual selection in order that their slow, plodding sincerity be not cumbersome in the mill of "higher education." So bring on the zams, and may God help the Bonehead.

UNIVERSITY HIGH SQUAD HOPE FOR WINNING TEAM

With three of the team that captured the State Interscholastic title

last winter back in uniform, the University High school basketball squad is turning out regularly in an effort to turn out another winning combination. The boys who were on last year's quintet are Gordon

Ridings, forward, and also All-State choice for that position; Tom Powers, forward, and Hempy, guard. The squad has been cut to 12 men and that number works out every afternoon in men's gym.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Sample Menu

COLLEGE SIDE INN
SPECIAL PLATE LUNCH 40c
11:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.
Soup
Boston Cream Clam Chowder
Veal Broth Vegetables
Choice of
Breaded Royal Chinook Salmon, Tarter Sauce
Roast Sirloin of Beef, Brown Gravy
String Beans Mashed Potatoes
Cakes, Custard Pudding, Whipped Cream
Coffee, Tea or Milk

Special Lunches

SERVED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY—11 to 3 P. M.

NO. 1—25c	NO. 2—35c
Bowl of Soup	Bowl of Soup
Baked Apple and Cream	One-half Deviled Meat Sandwich
Coffee	One-half lettuce sandwich
	One-half Cheese Sandwich
	Pie, Pastry, Stewed Fruit
	Coffee
NO. 3—35c	NO. 4—40c
Baked Beans	Chicken Biscuit
Brown Bread	Potatoes
Pie Ice Cream Pastry	Bread and Butter
Coffee	Coffee

STEAKS

Special Dinner Steak45
Small Steak, Country Gravy45
T-Bone Steak70

Tea or Milk May be substituted for Coffee
Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry Ice Creams and Daily Special Sherbet

We Bake All of Our Own Pastry

Sample Menu

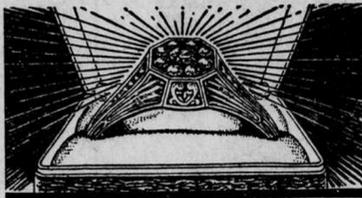
COLLEGE SIDE INN
SPECIAL PLATE DINNER 50c
Soup
Boston Cream Clam Chowder
Veal Broth Vegetables
Choice of
Grilled Royal Chinook Salmon
Chicken a la King in Casserole
String Beans Whipped Potatoes
Grapefruit Salad
Cabinet Pudding, Whipped Cream
Coffee, Tea or Milk

OPEN AN ACCOUNT AT LARAWAY'S



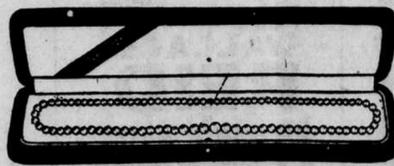
CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

DIAMOND RINGS
WALDAMAR CHAINS
CUFF LINKS
SCARF PINS
GOLD POCKET COMBS
CARD CASES
STERLING BELT BUCKLES
FOUNTAIN PENS
GOLD OR SILVER PENCILS
EBONY BRUSHES
LEATHER GOODS
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\$50 DIAMOND RINGS. mounting, square or hexagon top. \$10 down and \$10 per month.
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-5 down and \$5 per month.
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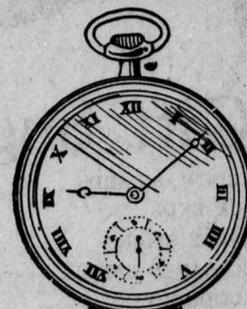
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\$12, \$15, \$20, \$25



This attractive style we have in various grades, with dependable, guaranteed movements, in white gold, 25-year gold filled or 14-k solid gold cases, ranging in price from \$12 to \$25.

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This 12-size thin model, Elgin movement, carries the regular Elgin guarantee, fitted in white, green or yellow guaranteed gold filled cases, in round, octagon or cushion shape, plain or engraved design, beautiful gold or silver dials, without extra charge for only \$20.

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