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Daily News Editor This Issue
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Background and Futures

It was the housemother of a leading sorority speaking. "Isn't it too bad about Mr. Wilson's death?"

Several of the girls agreed that it was and went on making out programs for a coming dance.

A little taken aback at the seeming disinterest, the housemother addressed one of the young ladies directly: "You think it's too bad, don't you, Elizabeth?"

"Oh, yes, I am always sorry when anyone dies. But, Mrs. Brown, who is the president now?"

This reply, coming from a girl, sweetly trying to be sorry, typifies a growing ignorance, and what is worse, a lack of interest, in anything which does not immediately touch the narrow circle of interests of campus folk.

We have heard examples of students who have not heard of President Harding's death. There are plenty who think Teapot Dome is a new name for a numskull. The lack of knowledge is not confined to present-day events. Many things in history or science which any student of a decade ago would have had on his tongue's end are entirely foreign to the knowledge of most modern attendants at our present-day institutions. The Bible and Shakespeare are "closed books," literally and physically, to all but a comparatively few, despite the fact that Harvey Scott, the greatest editor the West has ever seen, maintained that no education could be successful without an intimate knowledge of those two great works of literature. In this his belief coincided with that of hundreds of authorities.

The sad feature of the whole thing is that the universities and colleges of the United States are turning out men and women who not only lack background but apparently never get it.

Take the experience of the reporter of the San Francisco Chronicle, as recorded in a recent issue of that newspaper. Scores of prominent bay city people, including men and women in every calling, and even those in public service work and the law, had an incorrect idea or no idea at all as to who would succeed President Coolidge should he die. Only two persons, a preacher and a school teacher could be found who were sure of their contention and were found to be correct.

Their lack of knowledge is typical of the plight of the general run of citizens today. Willful ignorance of public affairs makes it less surprising that the Teapot Dome and other public scandals have occurred. When the electors of public officials are as uninformed as they seem to be, one is almost inclined to say that they deserve to have their pockets looted.

History shows that most of our great figures had a tremendous mass of workable knowledge, gained from wide reading and experience and a constant seeking after greater understanding. Lincoln, while not a college man or even a school man, amassed a wealth of learning, through conscientious efforts. Alexander Hamilton was writing worthy public documents at the age of 19. Histories give us hundreds of other instances where men built their greatness upon a wide knowledge.

A recent public figure whose memory commands respect of all lovers of learning and especially those who know of his achievement in journalism, was Joseph Pulitzer.

One of Mr. Pulitzer's secretaries has written a book, "Reminiscences of a Secretary," which gives us a good picture of what one man can accomplish in an intellectual way. Blind and exceedingly nervous, the great journalist and publisher of the New York World continued his learning up to a point where, according to the words of Mr. Alleyne Ireland, the narrator, "We (the dozen secretaries) had youth, health, and num-

bers on our side, yet this man, aged by suffering, tormented by ill-health, loaded with responsibility, kept pace with our united labors and in the last analysis gave more than he received."

With a long life behind him of service to the world in building up a great newspaper, and with a background which the ordinary man would take twice his life-time to accomplish, Joseph Pulitzer was not willing to let his mind rest even in his last years of blackness and as a result he was one man in a million intellectually. The reading of the average college man or woman for a term is paltry as compared with what he obtained through his secretaries in the course of a few days or a week.

Mr. Pulitzer lived in recent enough times to have come up against some of our so-called "intelligentsia"—those who pose as knowing something, university graduates many of them—yet knowing less of fundamental facts than Mr. Pulitzer knew in his adolescent years.

At the time he engaged Mr. Ireland as secretary, following a long period of probation, wherein he tested the young man's knowledge from every angle, he said: "I've had scores of people pass through my hands in the last 15 years—men of so-called high family, men of humble birth, men from a dozen universities, self-taught men, young men, old men, and, my God! what have I found? Arrogance, stupidity, ingratitude, laziness, indifference, absence of tact, discretion, courtesy, manners, consideration, sympathy, devotion; no observation, no memory, no insight, no understanding!"

That is how Joseph Pulitzer summed up the general run of educated Americans. He was probably more nearly right than we like to admit.

To go back to the day when classical education crowded out the more practical things of life is not desirable, but America does need an education system that does more than gloss over the top.

If Oregon's raising of standards in connection with the present touch of "Oxforditis" will make for a deeper student knowledge and a firmer foundation upon which to build a great education following graduation, then it is desirable.

Campus Bulletin

Notices will be printed in this column for two issues only. Copy must be in this office by 5:30 on the day before it is to be published, and must be limited to 20 words.

Sophomore Class—Meeting in Professor Howe's room in Villard at 5 today.

Women's Life Saving Corps—Meet today at 4:45 in Woman's building in suit, for picture.

Freshman Class—Meeting Friday afternoon, Villard hall, 3:15. Will vote on special assessment for sport awards.

Lutheran Students—Meeting Sunday, March 9, 5:30 p. m., Trinity Lutheran church. Program for spring term to be discussed.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY

Some High Points in Oregon Emerald of March 7, 1923

One hundred University graduates from the classes of 1878 to 1922 have been elected members of the Oregon chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Evaluation of student activities by the point system is too complicated to be valuable is the consensus of opinion borne by a number of joint faculty and student committees convened in session Monday afternoon.

Phi Mu Alpha, men's honorary music fraternity, will give its annual student body concert at assembly Thursday.

Everything is now in readiness for the newspapermen's conference to be held on the campus March 22, 23 and 24.

Recommendations of the state fire marshal have resulted in action being taken to rewire the library and McClure hall.

Lois Pixley has been appointed secretary of the Junior Week-end committee.

Pi Lambda Theta, national honorary educational fraternity for women, led all honor fraternities for scholarship during the fall term. The society maintained an average of 1.76.

Dr. John Landsbury, Gerald Barnes, Charlotte Banfield, Marion Linn and Wayne Akers are to be judges for the Oregon song contest.

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"The WOLF MAN"
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Coming Events

TODAY

10:00 a. m.—Prof. Oscar Jaszi, "Red and White Bolshevism." Villard hall.
2:15 p. m.—Prof. Oscar Jaszi, "Present Crisis of European Marxist Socialism." 105 Commerce.
3:15 p. m.—Freshman meeting. Villard hall.
5:00 p. m.—Sophomore meeting. Prof. H. C. Howe's room.
8:30 p. m.—"School for Scandal." Guild hall.
9:00 p. m.—Prof. C. A. Gregory, "Tests and Measurements." Radio.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
8:30 p. m.—"School for Scandal." Guild hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
4:30 p. m.—Vespers. Methodist church.
7:00 p. m.—Open Forum meetings. Congregational church.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
4-6 p. m.—Women's league tea. Woman's building.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14
Opening of three-day D. A. B. convention.

was bitterly resented by the old order. At the same time, it was wholly unacceptable to the proletarian radicals, who, under the Russian influence, were bent upon introducing the bolshevist scheme of things. The allies were at the time handling Hungary very roughly. It was inevitable that the Hungarian bolsheviks, under the leadership of Bela Kun and supported by Red Russia, would make Karolyi's tenure of office impossible. He was obliged to hand authority over into their hands, the immediate and ultimate consequences of which the whole world knows.

FOREIGN SCHOLAR TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS

(Continued from page one)

to be fortified in certain definite rights.

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