

Sage of Salem Speculates

By D. H. TALMADGE

LIFE IS TODAY
Life is filled with memories dim,
Laughing faces and faces grim,
Vagary figures of the past,
Visions that somehow failed to
last,
Pains and pleasures gone with
the years,
Laughing echoes, marks of tears,
Meekly we bow our whitened
head,
Pondering words the prophets
said.
Mystery's edge we barely touch,
We strive to learn, but learn not
much,
Dimness behind, darkness ahead,
Looks like sense, what the poet
said.
"Our life is nothing but Today,
Better ye look at it that way,
And in faith and with courage
strong
Do thy duties and plod along."

Rip Twiler was sitting on a beer keg at an up-valley railway station one noontime. He held a piece of cheese in his left hand, but he was not eating. Looking at him, I involuntarily thought of Rodin's "Thinker," the pose being similar to that of the familiar figure. I did not burst in on his meditations. But presently, as I was quite sure he would, Rip burst out with what was troubling him. "I've been wonderin'," he said, "why they put holes in the cheese that don't need ventilation and don't put 'em in cheese that does need ventilation. Why do you s'pose?" I was worried for a moment. Then Rip laughed, and I knew it was just a cheesy way he has of being funny.

An extreme case of insomnia is reported from Turner. The patient cannot sleep, even when it is time to get up.

Big news flashed from Europe by cable one day recently, with pictures for the news reels: The Duke of Windsor drank a Scotch and soda and skidded down a small mountainside.

My first view of a pair of pajamas was had 47 years ago this summer over in Wyoming. Circumstances one night required a young chap from Boston and I to occupy the same room at a hotel, and at bedtime he produced the pajamas from his suitcase and put 'em on. It was quite an experience. He said it was the coming thing in the way of night apparel, and subsequent developments have proved that he knew what he was talking about. An item in a recent issue of a New York paper gives the incident added interest. The item states that an edict from Paris in 1892 established pajamas as the only correct robe de nuit and banished the nightgown to oblivion, where, by the way, it did not remain. The fact that I saw a pair of pajamas in actual use in 1890 leads me to believe that I was among the very first in this country to see one of the garments. However, at the time I was not particularly interested in nightwear. As a matter of fact, on that Wyoming trip I wore the same shirt and nightgown—a blue flannel, on the bosom of which were spots resulting from the absence of napkins in that section at that time.

The "Lloyds of London" picture at the Grand theatre the past week, which was accorded house capacity business from its first showing, was in no sense a disappointment to those who saw it, as sometimes is the case when expectations have been raised to unusual heights by enthusiastic reports from other cities. The picture is in effect a pageant filled with color and drama. It is not likely, I presume, that it is entirely authentic historically, but in a general way it throws a broad light on an interesting period in English history and reveals the growth of the British underwriting syndicate, from a small group of men gathered in the London coffee house of Edward Lloyd to a world force in the mercantile shipping business. It is a story of heroes and heroism, with a delightful piece of acting by Tyrone Power (which we were not looking for) to set the pace for a fine company of players. "Lloyds" is known widely as being a London insurance concern. This picture will give many thousands of us an idea of the magnitude of the institution and the nature of it, which few have even remotely realized.

A considerable percentage of those who saw the Curwood film, "God's Country and the Woman," at the Blinnore during the week were attracted by the fact that the picture was for the most part filmed at Longview, Washington. The log jam and railway shivers were made on the Cowitts river at Ridgwood, and the mountain shown in the film is the north slope of Mount Hood. These things gave the picture an interest to me far greater than it would have

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

(Continued from page 4)
lets or circulars and mail distribution to any and every voter in the country at government expense. Tyranny cannot grow or develop under such a law. Those who seek power must first kill those who initiated this law because this law makes it impossible for any man to become a dictator.
HERBERT DENNETT,
West Stayton, Oregon.

possessed had they been lacking. The coloring of the film was almost breath-taking.

Some folks are fussy in the matter of historical accuracy. "The Plainsman," shown in these parts of late, conceded to be a splendid film, has aroused quite a wisp of dust amongst the punctilious ones, because, they say, it doesn't stick to the facts. As a matter of fact, it probably was a bit colored in spots for the sake of the story. But, even so, it was doubtless as nearly authentic as the majority of histories. The greater number of so-called inaccuracies are trivial in their nature anyway. Yet there is a percentage of the reading public sufficiently large to make profitable the publication of books picking small flaws in the character of certain of our historical heroes. Some of these books make out that the contents of the histories used in the public schools are so ridiculous that they should be practically without value. It is all rather wearisome.

By the way, a correspondent at Hollywood, touching upon the matter of historical accuracy in the lives of Wild Bill and Calamity Jane as shown in the "Plainsman" picture, innocently inquires as to the line between one thing and another which it is desirable to recognize in the presentation of historical data. The secretary at Washington, who connived with lawless whites in the Indian country to furnish guns and ammunition to the Indians at a time when Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane Canary were prominent in affairs at Deadwood, where the arms delivery was to be made, committed suicide. Going back somewhat further into history, the school books do not relate the story of the movement in New England to secede from the union at the time of the war of 1812. Omission of dead issues of a non-essential and painfully unpleasant nature is to be commended, rather than condemned.

Which reminds me, I saw and heard in a news picture some time back a 21-gun salute given the president. Why 21? I'll sure take it kindly if some historical accretion will answer the question definitely. And at the same time I'll be obliged if he will explain to me just how terrible it would be if the gunners should at some time lose a count and salute the president with only 19 or 20 guns.

A psychologist gentleman, whose name as I recall it (can't find the newspaper) is Watson, suggests reconditioning laboratories for the emotions. More failures in business, he says, come from lack of control of the emotions than from lack of intellect. Fear is the most devastating emotion. Love, in its broadest sense, is the only useful and non-harmful emotion that we have.

It is stated in the papers that the production of sausage in 1936 was the greatest in any year of the country's history. I wonder does "sausabe" include boloney?

Down town again after six weeks of illness—Frank Chapman of the Imperial Furniture company. One more snowstorm echo—man living on 23rd street said, "Walking is the finest and most healthful of all exercise—bah!" Mae West received the second largest salary paid in the United States last year, \$480,000. A Baltimore girl, aged 73, passes of water without stopping. That's another way to get your name in the papers. . . . 37 people killed on far western air routes since December 15. Something radically wrong. . . . Between now and mid-night of the 14th of March, which used to be inauguration day, but isn't any more, the Academy of Arts and Sciences at Hollywood will decide upon the "best" actor and the "best" actress of 1936. The customary number of motion picture fans will fall to agree with the decision. . . . Current magazines are featuring spring fashions. . . . Spring cleaning and a new dress for the walls and ceiling is in progress at the Schaefer drug store. . . . A great variety of wet pictures have been shown in the news reels during the past several days. The wettest looking of all the larger towns shown was Paducah, Kentucky. Irv Cobb's old home. . . . Talk in the sports columns is turning towards the June ring battle of "Aristotle's Ideal Man"—he does not kick over the others, even of his enemies, unless it be to themselves. He is his own best friend, and takes delight in privacy, whereas the man of no virtue or ability is his own worst enemy, and is afraid of solitude. . . . Salem coincides with other critical communities in admiration for the Howard-Shearer interpretation of "Romeo and Juliet." A beautiful picture. . . . Public opinion, fully aroused, is fully aroused only with great difficulty. It appears in its customary state as half indifferent to the infraction of regulations and satisfied with "investigations" which are only as thoroughly done as is necessary to insure the issuance of the usual pay checks. Perhaps this is the way it should be for the welfare of all concerned. Private opinions differ as to public opinion. . . . Number of cigarettes made in the United States in 1936, 153,196,336,092. I don't know just how many that is, but I reckon it's quite a lot. . . . Mischievous boys are beginning to shake off their winter apathy. A cat with an air-filled paper bag attached to its tail, at any rate a streak which was thought to be a cat with an air-filled paper bag attached to its tail, was observed on Little street during the week. . . . State

Life of Composer Comes to Library

Tchaikowsky of Interest Now; Social Hygiene Volumes Received

Salem Public Library readers who plan to hear Tchaikowsky's "Nuthacked Suite" at the Salem Philharmonic concert on Monday night, will be interested in the story of the great composer's life entitled "Beloved Friend," by Bowen and von Meck, which is on the library's current list of accessions for the week.

Parents, physician and educators will welcome the addition of a number of new books on sex and sex education, recommended by the Oregon Social Hygiene society, which will bring up to date the library's collection in this field.

Insurance men will find O'Donnell's "History of Life Insurance" a comprehensive and fascinating survey of this field, which should hold interest for all business men.

The list, as released by the librarian, follows:

- Fiction: White and Kendall, "Northern Trails Omnibus"; Beecher, "Bibliography"; Van Hoesen and Walter, "Bibliography, Practical and Enumerative"; Schneider, "Theory and History of Bibliography"; Ayer's directory of newspapers and periodicals; World almanac and book of facts.
- Psychiatry: White, "Twentieth Century Psychiatry"; Economics, Sociology: Brookings Institution, "The Recovery Problem in the United States"; Sex Education: Edson, "Training Youth for Parenthood"; Gibson, "On Being a Girl"; Robinson, "A Boy and His Girl Friends"; Stevens, "The Right Thing: How to Be Decent Though Modern"; Stevens, "Stevens Marriage Questionnaire"; American Social Hygiene association, "Guiding Boy-Girl Relationships in Adolescence"; Butterfield, "Engagement"; Butterfield, "Marriage and Sexual Harmony"; Chapman, "How Shall I Tell My Child: Hutton, "The Sex Technique in Marriage"; Rice, "The Story of Life for Boys and Girls of Ten Years"; Royden, "Sex and Common-Sense"; Stone and Stone, "A Marriage Manual"; United States Public Health service, "Sex Education in the Home, McLean and Hubbell, "Male Impotence"; American Social Hygiene association, "The Truth About Syphilis"; Schamberg and Wright, "Congenital Syphilis and Gonorrhea."
- Natural Resources: U. S. Congress, "A National Plan for American Forestry"; U. S. National Resources board, "Report on National Planning and Public Works, 1934"; "Regional Factors in National Planning and Development, 1935"; "Deficiencies in Basic Hydrologic Data, 1936"; "Report on Water Pollution, 1935"; and "Federal Agencies Concerned with Water Use and Control, 1936."
- Life Insurance: O'Donnell, "History of Life Insurance."
- Home Economics: Parents' magazine, "The Mother's Encyclopedia"; Music and Musicians: Ayars, "Contributions to the Art of Music in America by the Music Industries of Boston"; Bowen and Meck, "Beloved Friend."
- History: Woodward, "A New American History."

Graduates of O. S. C. Receive Appointments in Federal Army Corps

CORVALLIS, Feb. 13.—Word was received recently by the Oregon State college department of military science and tactics that Jack Graham, former president of the student body and 1936 graduate, and James W. Sloat, 1935 graduate, both from Portland, received appointments to the active Engineer corps of the United States army.

Graham was cadet colonel of the local R.O.T.C. unit. Sloat was president of Cauthorn hall of the dormitory during his senior year. Before their appointments these two men had been on active duty under the Thomason act, Graham with the 6th corps engineers at Fort Lawton and Sloat at Fort Lewis.

Corvallis Downs Astoria Quintet

CORVALLIS, Ore., Feb. 13.—(AP)—The state championship Corvallis high hoop team defeated Astoria's Fishermen 24 to 18 last night.

The home-towners led 12 to 3 at mid-game, saw the margin almost wiped out and then drew ahead for a safe advantage at the final gun.

story handed in by a valued friend—Small boy taken by his parents to communion service asks, "Daddy, why didn't you take a cracker with your cocktail?" Inferences may be drawn to suit the taste of the reader.

Statesman Book Nook

Reviews of New Books and Literary News Notes
By CAROLINE C. JERGEN

The Collected Poems and Plays of Rabindranath Tagore. The Macmillan Company, 1937.

In an era when we have grown satisfied and placidly content to set aside fantasies and myths to the centuries which have passed before, it is of great interest to pick up the writings of the contemporary Rabindranath Tagore, whose poems and plays are available now for the first time in one edition. In this are gathered together Gitanjali, The Crescent Moon, The Gardener, Chitra, Fruit-gathering, The Post Office, Lover's Gift, Crossing, Stray Birds, The Cycle of Spring, Sacrifice, and others. There is also an index to first lines which is invaluable to those who knew and love some of the poems.

The mystic quality which we cannot separate from India, the age-old and wise philosophy which is just as inseparable, the profound to be found in the simple, and a certain mystic freedom found anywhere, and almost never in modern poetry, all combine to set Tagore's work apart.

For example, I quote a prayer from Gitanjali and two short selections from Crossing:

"This is my prayer to thee, my lord—strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart.
Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.
Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.
Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might.
Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.
And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love."

"I know that this life, missing its ripeness in love, is not altogether lost.
I know that the flowers that faded in the dawn, the streams that sprayed in the desert, aren't altogether lost.
I know that whatever lags behind in this life laden with slowness is not altogether lost.
I know that my dreams that are still unfulfilled, and my melodies still unstruck, are clinging to some lute-strings of thine, and they are not altogether lost."

And:
"I came nearest to you, though I did not know it, when I came to hurt you.
I owned you at last as my master when I fought against you to be defeated.
I merely made my debt to you burdensome when I robbed you in secret.
I struggled in my pride against your current only to feel all your force in my breast.
Rebelliously I put out the light in my house, and your sky surprised me with its stars."
Tagore was born near Calcutta, India, in 1861. At the age of forty he founded a school at Santiniketan in Bolpur, Bengal. Tagore's winning of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, brought attention of American to the famous poet of India. Since then his work has found great favor in this country. We are told that his songs are sung from the west of India into Burma wherever Bangali is spoken and that plays, written before his twenty-fifth birthday, are still played in Calcutta.

At the age of sixty-eight he took to painting and has exhibited in many of the European centers. As a composer he has set over three thousand songs to music.

These words of this capacious genius (taken from Gitanjali) can surely not be based on introspection:
"The song that I came to sing remains unsung to this day.
I have spent my days in stringing and unstringing my instrument.
The time has not come true, the words have not been rightly set; only there is the agony of wishing in my heart.
The blossom has not opened; only the wind is sighing by.
I have not seen his face, nor have I listened to his voice; only I have heard his gentle footsteps from the road before my house.
The livelong day has passed in spreading his seat on the floor; but the lamp has not been lit and I cannot ask him into my house."
It is not that it is too early, while a man still lives, to speak of the lasting qualities of his work. But it is quite safe to say, I am sure, that the beauty and wisdom of Tagore's philosophy will not die away with the going of the present generation.
It is difficult to find words to accurately describe the effect of Tagore. But Tagore nicely describes this inability of expression in a quotation taken from his "Stray Birds":
"I am ashamed of my emptiness," said the Word to the Work. "I know how poor I am when I see you," said the Work to the Word."

Erich Maria Remarque is still busy revising "Three Comrades," his forthcoming novel. Those of you who think you are reading it in Good Housekeeping will find when the book comes off the press later this spring, that you



Photograph by Maria Van TAGORE "Collected Poems and Plays" (Macmillan)

have read but scarcely one half of it. The entire book extends to about 175,000 words.
It has much the power of "All Quiet on the Western Front." The scene and time is Germany in 1923.

A book to be published this month by Knopf is Erna Ferguson's "Guatemala." It deals with the cities and the countryside, the

Indian villages, the native handicrafts, religion, festivals, local customs, economics, politics of a country which bids fair to become a new American tourist heaven.
Miss Ferguson is known for her "Dancing Gods" and her "Pieta in Mexico."

Due to the insistent demand for "Oriental Buds" by John Kimbrell Mumford, Charles Scribner's Sons released the volume on January 29. Although recognized as the supreme authority on the subject for many years, the work has been out of print since 1924. The text remains unchanged in the present issue of the book and there are no changes in the illustrations which include numerous full-colored reproductions as well as half-tones.

On February 19th, Scribners will publish "Chinese Jade: A Comprehensive Review of Its Characteristics, Decoration, Folklore, and Symbolism" by Stanley Charles Nott. Mr. Nott gives a full and descriptive account of the significance and meaning of the jade carvings of the Chinese craftsmen from the earliest times down through the Chou dynasty to the twentieth century. Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith, who was formerly Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, has written an introduction, and the book includes over two hundred pages of text as well as a remarkable collection of illustrations. There are 150 full-page plates showing some 210 specimens, 60 of which are shown in the natural colors of the originals.

Move to New Home
SILVERTON, Feb. 13.—The Carlos Hamkes have moved into their new home and are getting

Mt. View School Still in Recess

SILVERTON HILLS, Feb. 13.—Telephone service has been restored here this week following the storm.
Porter school opened again Monday after a complete week's close-down. Mt. View district is still closed and will remain so until roads are thoroughly opened. Some storm injury was done to wood and playsheds at Mt. View. Work is being done on the Bridge Creek road this week. Three feet of snow still covers the ground in this region, while about six inches of snow lay on the ground in the Silverton Hills community club district.

Real Surprise Party Staged at McDowell's Residence on Heights

ORCHARD HEIGHTS, Feb. 13.—Guests at the H. R. McDowell home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Porter, Mrs. Goy Miller and daughter Beverly, all of Junction City, Mr. and Mrs. James Porter of Eugene, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fisher of Portland and Luther Stout and his son Harold of Mehama. Each group of guests, all of whom are relatives of Mrs. McDowell, arrived independently, not knowing of the impending arrival of the others and additional relatives arriving Monday from Fort-

nically settled. They recently purchased the four-acre tract owned by Mrs. Alice Gustafson.

land were John Cavitt and Jay Porter.

Travel Pictures Taken By Fred DeVries to Be Offered at Eldridge

ELDRIDGE, Feb. 13.—Fred DeVries of Prater will show motion pictures and give a talk Wednesday night, February 17, at the schoolhouse. People of this community will enjoy these pictures which were taken before leaving and after arriving in Norway where De Vries attended the world's Sunday school convention some months ago.

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