

THE LIBRARY PAGE

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Those wishing to contribute to this page turn work in to any member of staff, or mail to Editor at 94 Students' Exchange.

The Editor is glad to announce that William J. Fields Jr., has at last condescended to gratify the long expressed desire of the Editor by allowing said Editor to embellish the Library Page with one of his spicy, original, and expressive estimates of some current book. The book in this case is Judge Ben Lindsey's "The Revolt of Modern Youth." Mr. Fields has also written a number of delightful little lyrics which we hope to publish at a later date.

Lindsey's "The Revolt of Modern Youth".

Reviewed by

William J. Fields, Jr.,

As a case book of social pathology, written by a small city journalist from material collected by the judge of a juvenile court. "The Revolt of Modern Youth" makes an interesting study. However, as a treatise on the basic social problems of the day and their possible solutions, the work is, to say the least, mediocre. Entirely too much space is devoted to the task of impressing the reader with the unique capabilities of Judge Lindsey, and entirely too few facts of interest are produced concerning the alleged revolt of youth.

Since the work is primarily a dissertation on the man, Lindsey, and his work, it might be pertinent to give some of the facts concerning this interesting character. He is, and has been for some twenty years, the judge of the juvenile family-court of Denver, Colorado. During his tenure of office he has undoubtedly viewed many strange and interesting cases, and has gained an unusual slant on the social organization of his city. He is now well past the prime of life, small of stature, weak of sight, just a trifle dark, and not in the least striking in appearance. However, judging from this work of his, he fails to see himself in such a light.

A twentieth century Prometheus, bound by the chains of existing ignorance and superstition to the ugly rocks of "things as they are", still defying the Gods of convention for the sake of poor ignorant suffering humanity—thus it seems that he would have us picture him. To me he seems merely a little old man of mediocre mind who proudly announces in blatant tones the astounding facts of the sordid hopelessness, misery, and futility of life for the unguided masses—facts discovered and announced with equal pride by many a college sophomore.

As for the contents of his book, a series of case stories taken from personal interviews, there is a decided emphasis on sex. It seems that his duties are a strange admixture of those of father confessor and midwife. He has collected much interesting, if significant, data on the growth of promiscuity, especially among the youth of the city, and on the increasing interest in sex mat-

ters in general. When he comes to the solution of these problems, however, the Judge is more hesitant.

Concerning the problem of sex delinquency due to ignorance and forced innocence, Judge Lindsey recommends a policy of cooperation between the younger generation and their parents. This cooperation requires understanding of a type that has never yet been successfully accomplished, and he offers no plan for coming to this perfect state. Later, in a discussion of the rapid decay of the marriage system, he says: "Along with this changed attitude towards Love without Marriage (the capitals are Lindsey's) I see a steadily increasing resort to the arrangement of so-called Trial Marriage, by which is meant an informal agreement on the part of a man and woman to live together till they change their minds—usually with the intention of not changing them."

Now this Trial Marriage of which the Judge speaks with such favor, is to be merely a loosely binding contract whereby the two parties, male and female, will live together so long as they find cohabitation agreeable. However, with the birth of children, the question becomes more complex. So long as the children are in need of care, the marriage is binding, but when the offspring have reached maturity the marriage reverts to its original state of armed neutrality. This solution he offers in good faith, for, in spite of his naive attempts at social iconoclasm, Judge Lindsey still clings, according to his own assertion, to the popular ideals of "virtue, charity, and so on," and has "abiding faith in the ultimate and inherent goodness of mankind."

The inherent goodness of mankind—mankind with a sex complex. Bah! How can marriage troubles, the troubles of an institution based on sex, be revamped like a Ford hung together with bailing wire, by such means as this trial marriage makeshift. The true remedy is a Doctor with a probe and a yardstick... and a sense of humor!

For some reason or other, even the people of Denver have failed to give the man the worship he considers his due. Some of the ministers of that fair city have at times even dared to intimate that the Judge was exaggerating the amount of delinquency. Each time this happened, according to Lindsey's modest admission, the Judge has been busily engaged in the service of the accusing minister's wayward daughters. Not only once has this happened, but three times; coincidental to say the least. Thus the champion of the weak returns good for evil—and tells his public all about it!

This criticism, so far, has sounded clearly like argumentum ad hominem, and that it may be. My point is that Lindsey may be a safe and sympathetic father confessor for wayward girls, and a perfectly satisfactory Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court of Denver (which position he no longer holds) but, as a writer on the social problems of the day, he is merely an aged, bespectacled edition of Vina Delmar.

ATTENTION.

Knowing that many students in the college have shown a decided interest in the subject, we have clipped the following bit of news from a California exchange. This is the first collegiate contest of the kind that has ever come to our attention, and it is probable that it will become

quite popular in the future.

Women to Score Milk

At Davis Short Course

A milk scoring contest for women will be held on Saturday, February 9, at the University of California Farm here, in connection with the Dairy Industry Short Courses which are to be given February 4 to 14. In making this announcement, Dr. C. L. Roadhouse, head of the Dairy Industry Division, said this probably is the first contest of its kind exclusively for women. He expects a large number of entries since many wives and friends of those enrolled in the short courses will be in Davis for the annual banquet, which is to be held that evening. Anyone interested in milk consumption, he says, is eligible to compete.

In addition to the contests for women, the California Dairy Industries Association will hold the usual contests in milk, butter, cheese, in connection with its annual meeting, Friday, February 9.

The short courses to be given are five in number, and include market milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, and dairy bacteriology.

—Exchange.

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WHAT ARE THE BEST NOVELS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Prof. Wm. H. F. Lamont, head of English Department of Rutgers University recently drew up a list of 50 great modern novels; half of these novels were by British writers and half by American writers. He submitted this list to teacher classes in the Rutgers Extension Division who voted on the best.

"An Old Wives Tale" by Arnold Bennet; "Nigger of the Narcissus," "Lord Jim," and "Nostrome," by Joseph Conrad; "Far From the Madding Crowd," "Return of the Native," "Tess of the D'Urbenvilles," by Thomas Hardy, were some voted the best of the English group. The best of the American group were the "Brimming Cup" by Dorothy Canfield; "Red Badge of Courage," by Stephen Crane; "Jennie Gerhardt," by Theodore Dreiser; "Barren Ground," by Ellen Glasgow; "Rise of Silas Lapham," by Wm. Dean Howells; "Giants in the Earth," by O. E. Rolvaag; and "Ethan Frome," by Edith Wharton.

All these books with the exception of two can be secured in the University library. One of the books, "Jurgen," by James Branch Cabell, was debarred from the mails. It, curiously enough, was voted as among the least interesting.—Ex.

FRESHMEN FEWER NOW.

It is really amazing how things are always going to the dogs and never get there. A little while ago it looked as if our schools were going to be crammed and crammed with matriculants until they burst wide open. A body wondered where all the freshmen were coming from and where all the white-collar men were going to. But they tell us that things promise already to get better.

The Boston Transcript has kept records on about ninety American colleges and universities which it considers representative, taking ap-

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PALACE

Thursday Friday Saturday



QUEEN

Friday - Saturday

