

## LIBRARY FOUND TO BE IN NEED OF FUNDS

(ED'S NOTE: Some time ago we assigned Bill Murray, a junior editor of The Battalion, to investigate the status of the A. & M. library. His findings are startling, to say the least. Views expressed in Murray's article, which follows, represent the views of The Battalion.)

The A. & M. Library possesses some 70,000 volumes, including magazines, documents, technical pamphlets, and government-issued bulletins—for use by some 5,700 students and several hundred faculty members and other residents of the campus and its environs. Now 70,000 is quite a large number of books; but for that many users it is far from enough.

"For a school of this size we should have a library of about 200,000 volumes," declares Dr. Thomas F. Mayo, librarian. "At this time, besides our basic research requirements, we particularly need a great many more volumes of the good popular fiction and non-fiction books," he says. "The small sum of \$200 a year would go a long way toward purchasing an adequate supply of these books. I want the Aggies to read more, not only in their own fields but along general lines."

The Cushing Memorial Library building is a fine one. It has the capacity for a library of great size. And in Dr. Mayo we have a good librarian. With a good library building and a good librarian, all we lack now is a big enough stock of books to fill the building. We need enough copies of the most popular works so that all of them will not, nine times out of 10, be already taken out for use at the very time we want to borrow one ourselves.

To illustrate the library's sad lack of resources, take a look at the following statistics comparing the amount of money our library receives for necessary expenditures with the sums spent for libraries of other land-grant colleges of importance:

Agricultural and Mechanical College	No. of Students	Library Expenditures	% of College Budget Allowed Library	Library \$ Per Student
Kansas State	4,128	\$ 42,000	2.3%	\$10.17
Colorado State	1,966	22,000	2.6%	11.09
Oregon State	4,476	72,000	4.1%	16.02
Iowa State	5,929	111,000	3.8%	18.73
Oklahoma A. & M.	4,142	67,000	3.9%	12.97
Texas A. & M.	5,750	38,000	1.6%	7.44

Only one of the four state colleges compared above with our own is any larger than this one. Yet all show their libraries a far larger per cent of the college budget. All of them spend a great many more dollars per student than our does. And if our library were compared with those of the universities the contrast would be even more disheartening. But the fault lies, not with the library, mainly but in the fact that the State Legislature allows it far too small a sum to operate on properly each year.

Now right here is an unparalleled opportunity for the dozens of A. & M. Mothers Clubs and Ex-Students Clubs and other organizations connected with the college to do Texas A. & M. a great service, one of lasting benefit for the future—cooperating to relieve the distressing shortage of funds and of books for the library.

The Conora and San Angelo Mothers Club have already made several valuable contributions of books and of magazine subscriptions. The Dallas Ex-Students Club is now planning assistance to our library. Now if only the rest of the numerous clubs would take heed of the situation and start to work on this matter, it would be an easy task to raise the \$200 needed at this time and to provide even greater assistance needed in the future.

It cannot be doubted that our library—and any library—is one of the greatest and most important sources of education, culture, and recreation existing anywhere. From what has been said it should be

obvious that our library is in dire need of assistance. Any contributions of books or magazines, of money, or of any other form of aid to our library, from any public-spirited person or organization whatever, will be fervently welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Another factor from which the library suffers (in addition to the lack of funds) is the careless handling, loss, and theft of books by borrowers. It becomes even harder that it would normally be for the library to get and keep the books it needs for the use of the entire student body and faculty, when a certain few careless or dishonest people, heedless of the rights of others and of the library's needs, steal or lose or irreparably damage hundreds of books each year.

All that The Battalion can hope to do is to point out the needs and opportunities for assistance to our library. Here are the opportunities. Now it is to be hoped that philanthropic organizations and individuals will take advantage of them, conferring a great benefit to the college thereby.

## COLLEGE JOURNALISM

Much has been written recently concerning college publications. The writers blantly declare that they are an unnecessary expense, a waste of the student's time, that they give "no fundamental news writing experience to any of the students," and that "their advertising departments make nuisances in the business communities."

If the censors of our student publications would thoroughly investigate the conditions of our local collegiate (and we might add high school) journals, they would find that the college publication presents one of the few profitable, extra-curricular activities, both educationally and financially, on the campus.

Student papers may not give "fundamental news writing experience to any of the students," as one writer says, but, strange to say, there are many alumni of college journalism who are enjoying successful careers in that field.

None of the advertising in our college papers is solicited as the business man's favor to the school. Students provide a live market for the products of modern business and wise business men seek their patronage through the closest medium—the school paper. National advertisers contact the college man and woman through agencies whose exclusive interest is collegiate.

College journalism is not a fad nor a product of adolescent frivolity but an established institution with an enviable record of achievement.

—DAILY NORTHWESTERN

**PUBLIC HOUSING IN RELATION TO CITY PLANNING** is the subject of a new five-year study recently begun at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## On National Affairs

BY DR. R. P. LUDLUM  
EUROPEAN MEN AND POLICIES

In the midst of one of the world's recurring war crises, recently, Mr. Walter Lippmann made a penetrating remark. He said it was astonishing to hear everyone asking whether we could keep the peace, when in fact two wars were being waged at that moment, and another had come to an end just a short while before. The world has come a long way in the last twenty-five years, said he, to the place where, while two wars are going on, it can ask whether peace can be preserved. Bit by bit, insensibly, "peace" has become a comparative term, and when most of us think of "war," we mean an all-embracing world war.

For my own part, I have begun to have similar doubts about the question so often asked these days—whether civilization as we know it can be preserved. I have begun to wonder whether it is not already too late to ask the question. I have begun to wonder whether the kind of thing we have been accustomed to think of as civilization has not disappeared to such an extent already, as to require us to phrase our question, "Can civilization as we knew it be restored?"

I am not sure I can define what civilization is. I'm sure I know some things that are not civilized. Even if war itself be admitted as a concomitant of civilization, surely the making of war directly upon civilian populations has not been considered civilized. Yet attacks upon non-combatants, to break down their morale, is a part of present-day warfare. The sacking of cities captured in war surely was a custom the world thought it had put behind it. Yet the statement of Nanking must have aroused some parts of the world to the realization of the danger to what we had thought to be an advanced civilization.

All civilized countries certainly have not welcomed the unfettered expression of all types of dissident opinions. But we have been accustomed to think of civilized countries as suppressing unpopular opinions by milder means than murder. Today, however, there are countries in which the punishment for holding opinions not officially approved is death, and in some cases the dissenter is fortunate if death is not preceded by a prolonged period of torture.

One of the proud boast of democratic countries is that their laws forbid the punishment of individuals except for crimes whereof the accused shall have been duly convicted, and that the laws restrict the punishment to those convicted, and do not permit it to be extended to others who had no connection with the guilty except an incidental one. How far is this from the brutal harriving of an entire race, extending even to the point of allowing its members, innocent of any crime whatever except membership in the race, to freeze to death in the borderland between two nations, because none would harbor them?

A catalogue of uncivilized horrors in the contemporary world might be extended without limit. The list would be long enough, and the departure from civilized standards wide enough, to give point to my doubt whether we should speak of preserving civilization.

All of these remarks are by way of introduction to the contents of this column for the next few weeks. The column will be devoted to a discussion of certain outstanding leaders in contemporary Europe, and to mention of some of their policies and objectives. In all fairness, I must acknowledge my debt to Mr. John Gunther, and to the latest edition of his "Inside Europe."

## "SITDOWN" OR BREAKDOWN, WHICH?



number of contributions in the fields of engineering, in addition to the educational lectures. At present it is fixing up a lounge in the basement of the M. E. building for the use of engineering seniors. The club possesses a 16-mm. talking picture projector, the use of which has greatly increased interest and added to the entertainment features of the meetings. The club dues and the benefit show it presents each year have kept its finances in sound condition.

The local branch of the A. S. M. E. each year sends contestants who compete for prizes at the regional meeting, and to the triangular meet between Rice Institute, the University of Texas, and A. & M. We have had many winners at these contests.

The officers of the A. & M. branch of this national society this year are Jack Clark, president; Buddy Mandell, vice-president; George Staples, general program chairman; and Bert Burns, secretary-treasurer.

"THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND of the Sino-Japanese Conflict" will be the subject discussed by Dr. J. L. Dodson, history instructor, at the Monday night meeting of the Social Science Seminar. An account of the past economic penetrations of Japan into China and the significance and bearing of these penetrations on the war between the two countries will be given. The meeting will be held at 7:30 next Monday night in the lecture room of the Physics building.

If you think all the gold-diggers are blondes and live on Broadway you are wrong, for Captin Tom Emerich will tell you that they are cadets and they live at Wentworth Military Academy at Lexington, Mo.

Captain Emerich's curiosity was aroused by the increasing number of cadets who have come into his office to consult his Dun and Bradstreet rating book. In interrogating one cadet who came in with a long list of names of business men in several states whose credit rating he wished to ascertain, the captain asked him "what he was doing." "Well, captain, I have dated seventeen girls this past summer," the cadet replied, "and I want to find out which one of the girls' fathers has the most money."

## CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

BY BILL MURRAY  
THE A. S. M. E.

One of the oldest organizations on the A. & M. campus is the local branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, one of the four original engineering associations organized with branches covering every state in the United States. The local membership this year numbers 130, making it one

of the largest branches in the entire country.

The meetings of the local M. E. group, held on alternate Thursdays, are mainly technical, consisting largely of talks by students and instructors and of lectures by distinguished visitors in the engineering fields. In the past the club has succeeded in bringing to College Station a number of prominent

men to lecture to the club and to the college. Last year these included Harvey N. Davis, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology and of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, who spoke on "The Engineer of the Future", and Roy Wright, past president of the A. S. M. E. and editor of "Railway Age". The club is now planning to secure as speaker George McCormick, Superintendent of Motive Power for the Southern Pacific Railway on the West Coast.

The local branch has made a

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Entered as second class matter at the post office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress on March 3, 1879.

Subscription rates, \$2.00 per year

Advertising rates upon request.

Office in Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone College 8. Office open from 11 a. m. until 4 p. m. daily.

Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service, Inc., 420 Madison Ave., New York City.

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