

There are so many fine, though ordinary things in life to be glad for, I think one of them is a real, neighborly greeting from his heart.

FIFTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 33

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1936

PART TWO

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LATEST BOOKS AT LIBRARY DISCUSS FOREIGN SHORES

Five Books Dealing With Interior Decoration Also Added

Tales of foreign shores appear to dominate the group of new books at the Baldwin Public Library this week, novels of Russia, China, England and Africa being placed on the shelves for immediate circulation. The African influence is not entirely forgotten, however, for five splendid books dealing with the art of interior decoration are available to devotees of this subject.

England can never hope for a fairer, more intelligent critic than Paul Cohen Portman, who by fate of the war was held for years as a prisoner within her gates. In "England, The Unknown Land," Mr. Portman, has, as the best English critics say, presented a shrewd, brilliant, acute, intelligent and witty book. For conciseness and readability none of the recent studies of England can equal this. The chapters on politics, sports, society, literature, the theater, and the press are astonishingly penetrating.

"In African Witch," Joyce Carey has his first book ever to be published in America. The book has a freshness and challenge of things not understood entirely, but withal, real and terrible. It is of brilliant writing, with rich wisdom and entertainment, that builds the story up to a climax of utter honesty leaving you, the reader, in the end, with the ideals of the western world demolished in a moment of Africa's complete triumph.

Maurice Hindus, author of "Broken Earth," "Humanity Unrooted," "Red Bread" and "The Great Offensive," presents a brilliant study of modern Russia in "Moscow Skies." Mr. Hindus, born in Russia makes annual visits to the Soviet Republic and is well able to write of the new Republic. Bernard Blackman, an American journalist, and grandson of a Russian idealist goes to Moscow—finds himself at once in the midst of all the forces that the Revolution has unleashed. They are intensified by the onward rush of Revolutionary activity. Mr. Hindus draws from this world character portraits of men and women in a new social milieu that is stimulating to the imagination. He creates a pageant of life, love and death in one of the most turbulent and crucial moments of history.

The author of "Oil For The Lamps of China" has again returned to this land for her latest novel, "Yang and Yin." Alice Hildebrandt, author, has taken three years to write the book, returning to China for verification and to freshen her impressions. There is the conflict of the theory of laissez-faire philosophies and ancient superstitions; the humanitarian science of medicine. There is the stern antagonism of the primitive idea of woman's function to the western woman's idea of freedom.

The five books of interior decoration, all beautifully illustrated with valuable plates and sketches are: "What's New In Home Decoration" by Winifred Fales; "The Book of Furniture and Decoration" by Joseph Aronson; "Decorative Past, Present and Future," by Sarah M. Lockwood; Nancy McClellan's "Furnishing The Colonial and Federal House." And, finally, probably the finest of the lot "Modern Furnishing and Decoration" by Derek Patmore. This last book has been nationally acclaimed as the best book—illustrating the taste of the 1930's that has appeared so far. These books on home decoration were purchased through funds of the Birmingham Women's Club.

Turning to the Egyptian Papyri for the next glimpse of surgery, Dr. Ormond said that Egyptian medicine in 1550 B. C. consisted largely of incantations and repulsive prescriptions. Next, he said, he would refer to the Laws of Hammurabi of Babylon to show the state of medicine existing in 2300 B. C. Pater said that if a physician successfully performed an operation he would receive ten shekels of silver but if the patient died the doctor had to pay by having his hands cut off. However, if it happened to be a slave that died then all the physician had to do was replace the captive with another. "You see," the speaker asserted, "surgery was a recognized profession at that time although it must have taken a good deal of courage to practice it."

Dr. Ormond referred to the Surgery of 1840 was largely devoted to the handling of fractures, injuries, amputations, dressing of wounds, treating for stricture, searching for trill, draining of abscesses and infections and the cutting for stone. The fact that there was no abdominal surgery, etc., many surgeons declared that their predecessors reached such a stage of perfection that no further progress was possible.

"And then came the discovery of general anesthesia—first by Morton in 1846, and chloroform by Simpson in 1847. These discoveries opened a new field, permitting operations at leisure and with precision. Dr. Ormond brought out, "No longer did the physician have his ears deafened and his hands pierced by the pitiful cries of his patient and he was no longer troubled by muscular contusion and struggles."

Dr. Ormond Traces History Of Surgery Back 3,000 Years In Address To Rotarians Monday

"Today we call an operation very dangerous if an average of five out of 100 people die from it but in the early history of medicine it was not uncommon for 90 per cent, or even more, of those operated on, for some ailment to succumb under the knife," Detroit, and local resident, in an intensely interesting and educational address on "The Development of Modern Surgery" given before the session of the Rotary Club Monday noon at the Community House. Forbes S. Hasall presided at the session and Charles J. Shain served as chairman of the day's program, introducing the speaker.



—Photo By Gold Studio.
Dr. John K. Ormond

The field of medicine, in general, can be divided into three great divisions: preventive medicine such as the work done by the public health service, medicine in general and surgery. Dr. Ormond stated in his opening remarks. He said that the first division treats people and the second and third have to do with the care of the individual.

The difference between medicine and surgery is largely artificial as both depend on accurate diagnosis. However, surgery depends on medical or dietary treatment while surgery uses mechanical means," the doctor asserted. Dr. Ormond stated that land transportation and surgery could be compared historically. In both instances, he said, the greatest forward strides have been made in the past 100 years. The most drastic change in transportation came with the advent of the steam engine, Caesar and Napoleon, although they actually lived many years apart, could talk the same language regarding soldiers, supplies and methods of transportation. But to compare Caesar and Pershing, leader of the AEF during the World War, would prove impossible so great had the changes been in movements of armies, supplies, etc. In surgery, he pointed out, progress remained at a standstill for 3000 years.

In 1840 the field of surgery was still in the undeveloped stage, he said. Such important discoveries as general anesthesia and the prevention of infection had not been made up to that time. In tracing the history of surgery up to that date Dr. Ormond stated that it was his guess that the splint was the first surgical instrument discovered. Other efforts to remedy the misfortunes and disabilities of man were attempted, sometimes by rational means, sometimes by appeal to divinities and magic. In time, through accident, injuries war and the embalming of the dead, some knowledge of anatomy grew up, although the steps are not known.

Medicine In 2250 BC Dr. Ormond referred to the Laws of Hammurabi of Babylon to show the state of medicine existing in 2300 B. C. Pater said that if a physician successfully performed an operation he would receive ten shekels of silver but if the patient died the doctor had to pay by having his hands cut off. However, if it happened to be a slave that died then all the physician had to do was replace the captive with another. "You see," the speaker asserted, "surgery was a recognized profession at that time although it must have taken a good deal of courage to practice it."

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came the Indian Veda of about 600 to 500 B. C. Then 121 surgical instruments were permitted with the approval of the Brahmin and after the body had been left in a stream of water for three days. Great stress was laid on training surgeons and many were skillful in eye operations and also in plastic operations on the nose. Physicians of those times found many opportunities to restore or remake the noses of women as it was then the custom of jealous husbands to cut off the noses of their offending wives. Other progress conducted by the Indian surgeons included sewing up wounds, caring for fractures, opening abscesses and cutting and dilating.

The next picture we get is of Greek medicine," the Ford Hospital surgeon stated. "Hippocrates, the 'Father of Medicine,' was a careful and keen observer but his surgery was not much different from that of the Indian surgeons for until the discovery of anesthetics and bacteria there was little room for progress. Following Hippocrates came Galen, 130 A. D. and his voluminous writings were accepted as the last word in surgery for 12 centuries or until the Renaissance and the awakening of reason.

Surgery Of 1840 Dr. Ormond told his listeners that despite the fact that surgery was elevated to the position of a dignified profession, causing to its standard men of learning and ability, no great advance in the medical field had been made for 3000 years. He said that when the famous John Marshall was operating upon a Philadelphia physician for removal of gall stones the operation was conducted in much the same manner as the old Indian doctors performed it. However, he said, the modern era of enlightened medicine followed immediately.

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Members of the committee who were in charge of the affair included: Edwin Beresford, Loren Bow, Stewart Bell, Fred Dyer, H. R. Estes, Dr. E. E. Hammond, Harold Holmes, Luther Meeker, George Miller, George Reed, Art Rose, Fred Sanders, W. A. Shunk and Fred Smith.

Infection Checked Dr. Ormond said that conscientious surgeons were in despair over infection. But then came the work of Louis Pasteur and the advent of bacteriology. Lord Lister of England, who was the first to apply this new science to surgery and his results were striking. With increasing knowledge of bacteriology it was found that far better than an antiseptic was asepsis—preventing the introduction of infection from without by means of sterilizing instruments, hands and dressing.

In conclusion the club speaker pointed out that the surgeon of old would be amazed to walk into a modern operating room and watch doctors explore the abdomen, skill, heart and chest in a business way with every expectation that the wounds would heal cleanly and promptly.

Trade Stimulated As Holidays Near

Reports to the Department of Commerce from key cities throughout the country indicate that business is moving forward on a broad front. More favorable weather was the chief factor in stimulating retail sales but wide-spread announcements of wage increases, bonuses and extra dividends was also noted as a factor in laying the foundation for a continued upsurge in public buying. The reports gave evidence of improvement in employment and widening of industrial activities.

There were continued indications of an especially heavy holiday trade in all parts of the country. Holiday gift items have begun to move into consumer channels and merchants were reported as stocking their shelves in preparation for sales that will eclipse in volume anything witnessed in recent years. As an example, New York reported that sales of leather goods accessories for the holiday trade are running close to 40% ahead of last year in dollar volume. Novelty jewelry also sold at a rate far in excess of the level of a year ago. The mid-season market at the Chicago Furniture Mart, Chicago, brought forth the report that furniture sales are up 40% from the same period last year.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—Mrs. Neil Reiker, 819 Greenwood. "We are very grateful for the complimentary copies of The Birmingham Eccentric that have been sent to us for the past four weeks. It is one of the factors that has made living in Birmingham so pleasant."

REEVES SPEAKS ON SELF-GOVERNMENT

Prof. J. S. Reeves of the University of Michigan addressed the members of the Men's club Wednesday at 8 p. m. in Christ Church Cathedral on "Reclaiming Self Government." The meeting, jointly sponsored by the Men's club and the Oakland Citizens' League, was open to all interested in the subject.

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