

The Platonists

By MORRIS SCHULTZ

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Maisie was surprised that the young fellow in the hall room next to her own failed to reply to her cheerful "Good-evening." Maisie was feeling fine toward all the world, for only the day before she had secured a position in a large department store.

"Mr. Rodwell didn't seem in good spirits," she said to Mrs. Palmer that evening.

"Well, I guess he ain't," she answered. "There's a month's rent owing me now, and it's high time he got out and hustled for a living. I can't afford to keep no idlers here."

Maisie looked mournful. "Oh, I know he's trying as hard as he can," she answered. "He's got a sort of promise of a position at the end of the month."

"Mebbe," answered Mrs. Palmer, with grim determination, "but there's been a party inquiring about his room, and I guess he'll have to go at the end of the week."

Maisie opened her slim purse. "Look, Mrs. Palmer. Suppose I pay his rent for the past month. I'm sure he'll get that position and repay you. Then you can give it back to me. And you won't say anything, will you?"

Mrs. Palmer smiled cynically. "Well, it's your affair, Miss Allbright," she answered. "But I guess you won't see your money again."

She told Rodwell, in spite of her promise, for he looked very shamefaced when he met Maisie on the doorstep next evening. "I don't know how I'm to thank you," he began.

Maisie laughed and she told him her position paid enough money to make the loan insignificant. She gave up lunch for two weeks and then got straight again.

Rodwell did secure his position, and they became good friends. They often went for walks together in the evening. Both were from the country, neither had been a year in the city, and the sights were still novel to them. But they were just friends.

Only friends, but deep in Maisie's heart uneasiness was growing. She felt that he was beginning to care too much. And—well, it was not suitable, that was all.

Long silences succeeded those first days of warm friendship. They began to drift apart. Their walks grew fewer. Then came nearly a week during which Rodwell did not see Maisie. She hurried home in the evenings and kept to her room.

"Is Miss Allbright in?" he asked Mrs. Palmer, one afternoon.

Mrs. Palmer smiled her cynical smile. "Well, I guess not," she answered, "but she lost her job last week, and she's asked to hold me up for the next week's rent. Of course I'd like to oblige her, but there's a party been inquiring for her room, and I got my husband to support."

"Won't you let me pay her rent for a month ahead?" asked Rodwell. "I'm sure she'll get another position. And promise not to say a word to her about it."

"Well, I guess you know your own business best, Mr. Rodwell," replied the landlady, with her cynical smile. That evening there came a gentle tap at Mr. Rodwell's door. Maisie Allbright was standing outside. She looked flushed, indignant.

"Mr. Rodwell, Mrs. Palmer was telling me what you—you did for me," she said. "I appreciate your kindness, but just—just because I helped you isn't reason why—oh, I can't take it."

"But, Maisie," protested Rodwell, "why not?"

"You know what it means when two people like us, living next door, get helping each other. They—they have to fall in love. And I won't! I won't!" she said.

Rodwell heaved a vast sigh of relief. "Is that all?" he asked. "Why, I don't intend to marry for years and years. Is that why you've been sort of cold toward me?"

Miss Allbright smiled through her tears. "Can we honestly be friends, then, and not—not have to—care for each other just because we've met like—like this?" she asked.

"It's just what I've been wanting," answered Rodwell. "Then you'll come out with me again in the evenings, like you used to?"

"Of course I will. I was afraid you cared."

"I was afraid of making you care." Silence.

"You did a little."

"Darling, I've loved you all along!"

Snuff Making Complicated Process. Snuff making is the most difficult and complicated process in the whole tobacco business. The best tobacco for the purpose is a dark and fleshy leaf, but probably the principal ingredients nowadays are scraps, waste and midribs. The mass is moistened with a salty solution and left in great heaps to ferment. Then it is flavored with licorice, tonka beans or what not, dried and ground and then fermented again, perhaps a couple of times.

Questions. "Why don't you settle some of these questions?" "I have settled almost every one of them in my various speeches," answered Senator Sorghum. "So have a number of my fellow statesmen. The trouble is that a whole lot of people don't know they have been settled and keep on asking them over and over again."



Alice Lindsey Webb

You can never read bad literature too little, nor good literature too much. Bad books are intellectual poison; they destroy the mind.—Hawksbury Ag. College Journal, Sydney, Australia.

"Caroline at College" is a sweet and wholesome book for young girls; and older people who know the beautiful campus at Berkeley, the hills and seashore, or the haunting grandeur of Pike's Peak (in the neighborhood of which part of the story is laid) will also enjoy this new book by Lela Horn Richards (Little, Brown; \$1.75). It is a sequel to her previous book, "Then Came Caroline," but unlike many sequels, it makes a very delightful whole in itself, and in no way depends on the reader's previous interest in the heroine for its charm. Caroline is a merry, mischievous, gentle and generous young thing, very democratic in spite of the aristocratic blood of an old Virginia family. Her affectionate consideration of her mother and father, and her sisters, and their eager self-sacrifice for each other are very pleasant things to see. Though there are various college boys introduced into the tale, and the natural "affairs" of young people, there's not a line of silly sentimentality; all the way through the right things are emphasized, without making the characters in the least "goody-goody." M. L. Greer has given it pleasant illustration.



STEWART EDWARD WHITE

Recently I spoke of a book by Stewart Edward White which my mother is reading; "On Tiptoe." I have just received it from the publishers (Geo. H. Doran & Co.) and shall tell you more about it soon. It looks very interesting—a romance of the California redwoods. By the way, this portrait of Mr. White seems to make him much more of an aloof, scholarly, even "high-brow" sort of person than his books of the mountain and desert trails and the blazed ways of the deep woods would indicate. He is a most interesting personage.

"It is possible that some people are incorrigibly lazy; but a proper system of vocational guidance and training would certainly discover for almost all men and women some work to which they would be willing to give a reasonable amount of energy," says Durant Drake in his chapter on that universally interesting topic, prosperity for all, in "America Faces the Future" (Macmillan, \$2.50). "Some people, of course, are stupid," he continues; "but appropriate education can make all of these useful producers except the extremely sub-normal; and these the state must look after—if for no other reason, to prevent their having children. Some people will be improvident, and fall to provide for illness and old age; a proper system of health and old-age insurance will remove this gambler's risk and protect people against misfortune. Differences in productive ability will remain, but not such as to deny to anyone a decent livelihood. There is no need of anything more than sporadic poverty and want, overwork, undernourishment, or indecent housing. It is our fault, our national crime, that these evils exist on a large scale."

I have three very interesting books on community interests: Augustus W. Hays on "Rural Community Organization" (University of Chicago Press, \$1.50), Howard Copeland Hill's "Community Life and Civic Problems" (Ginn & Co., \$1.40) and Renee B. Stern's "Neighborhood Entertainments" (Macmillan). Prof. Hayes a sociologist at Tulane University of Louisiana, has evidently had a wide and intimate acquaintance with men and measures calculated to form and mould rural polities, with changes in rural psychology which have taken from the farmer much of his individualism. He puts his fin-

ger on the weak point in the system of organizing according to trade areas, and points out how the farmer of today with his good roads, automobile, and telephone, demands a variety of interests and contacts calling for a broader basis of organization than that of the little district school neighborhood. He knows the rural parish and its wide divergencies, the ineffectual civil township division, the value of the open forum and democratic government of the New England towns, and the general lack of rural community in the South. He gives nearly 40 pages out of a total of 125 to the consolidated school district. For those who would consult still other authorities, he includes a list of 14 books and reports bearing directly on the subject, and copies of legislative enactments for the incorporation of rural communities.

Mr. Hill, head of the social science department of the University of Chicago high school, has a book nearly five times the size of Prof. Hays', partly because it is copiously illustrated with nearly 200 photographs ranging from gutter urchins to Yosemite Falls. Every phase of civic and community life is taken up in detail, in such a way that the book may easily be used as a text in civics. It has, in fact, been successfully so used for three years in the form of mimeographed sheets, by the author in his school. He says of it: "I have tried to do four things: First, to explain a few of the important institutions and problems of life; second, to make civics interesting and concrete by a liberal use of illustrative material; third, to establish lasting ideas about the topics discussed by treating them at some length rather than in fragmentary fashion; and fourth, to inspire boys and girls with a desire to do their part in bettering their own groups and neighborhood, as well as their state, their country and the world." A careful survey of the book would impress one with the feeling that Prof. Hill has accomplished his purpose. It is certainly an interesting book, and one sure to give helpful suggestion to teachers. At the ends of chapters, for example, there are questions for debate; topics for compositions; study references and suggested readings for pupils, and for teachers, besides the questions and problems covering the chapters' special ground. Here are a few of the chapter headings under the four chief divisions of Group Life, Community Problems, Industrial Society, and Government and Politics: Fire protection and prevention; The Police force; Community health; Children of the melting-pot; The Schools; The Church; The Family; Civic Beauty; Recreation; Communication and Transportation; Exchange of Goods; Work and the Worker; The Handicapped.

In the appendices are included the Constitution of the United States, and a chart of figures on the various states, as to area, date of admission, population, etc. There are also some 18 maps and diagrams shown. Renee Stern's book is the second of a dozen volumes which compose the Farmer's Practical Library, edited by Ernest Ingersoll. It has proven so popular that the original edition has been four times reprinted. It is given to a consideration of the problem presented by a lack of sufficient social life in the country and small towns. The first half of the volume covers organizations—local improvement associations, young people's clubs and societies, woman's clubs, social centers. One chapter is given to general directions for conducting a club. The second half, on entertainments, deals with both the "how" and "when" of community amusement—special celebrations and festivals, amateur theatricals, word games, and money-making entertainments. It is, altogether, a very useful book. I am glad to see this new printing of it.

Some New Books

- The White Heart of the Mojave. Community Civics for City Schools, by Anthony Ross Williamson (Heath, \$1.60).
- 14,000 Miles Through the Air, by Sir Ross Smith (Macmillan).
- The Poetic Mind, by F. C. Prescott (Macmillan, \$2).
- Rural Child Welfare, by Edward Clapper (Macmillan).
- Child vs. Parent, by Rabbi S. S. Wise (Macmillan).
- Russia in the Far East, by Leo Pastolovsky (Macmillan, \$1.75).
- No. 87, by Harrington Hext (Macmillan).
- Theory of the Liesure Class, by Thorstein Veblin (Huebsch).
- The Beggar's Opera, by John Gay (Huebsch).
- Farewell to America, by Henry W. Nevinson (Huebsch).
- The Soldier and Death, by Arthur Ransome (Huebsch).
- The Bittermeads Mystery, by E. R. Punshon (Knopf).
- Explorers of the Dawn, by Mazo de la Roche (Knopf).
- The Return, by Walter de la Mare (Knopf).
- Egholm and His God, by Johannes Buchholtz (Knopf, \$2.50).
- The Story of the Non-Partisan League, by Charles Edward Russell (Harper).
- Open Gates to Russia, by Malcolm W. Davis (Harper, \$2).
- The Inside Story of the Peace Conference, by Dr. E. J. Dillon (Harper).
- A Year as a Government Agent, by V. B. Whitehouse (Harper).
- Children of Transgression, by G. Vere Tyler (Holt, \$1.75).
- How and Why Stories, by John C. Branner (Holt).

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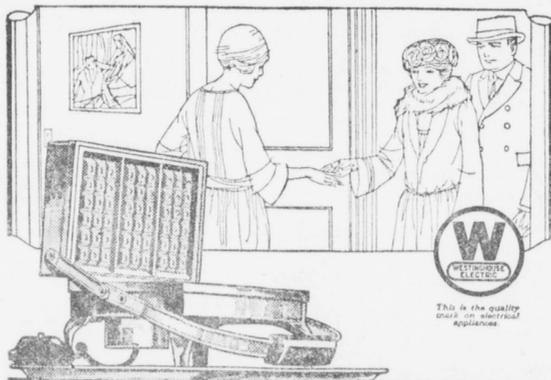
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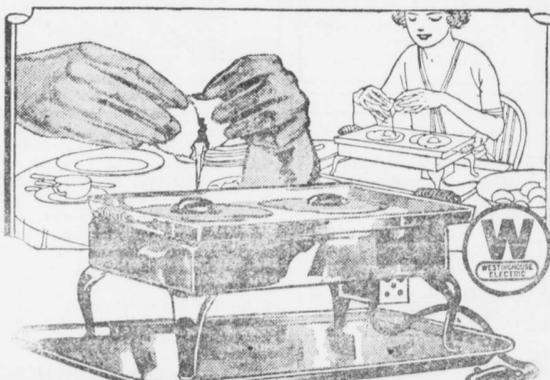
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