

people waste substance, as they so largely do in the world now, the step is short toward a psychology where the waste of life seems a natural part of the world's order.

Westerners would do well to give a more attentive ear to the soundness of Eastern thought as it comes to us through Mr. Lin's balanced mind. I grant that wasting of life has occurred on a stupendous scale in the Orient, the reasons being obvious; but I maintain that happiness or serenity of spirit it has widely survived in the Orient because of its being partly based on such material measures as Lin Yutang recommends.

WITTER BYNNER.

Santa Fe, N. M.

Hush - Hush in Bartlesville

SIR: During recent months Bartlesville, Oklahoma, a small Northeastern Oklahoma city with a population of around 19,000, has been the locale of a vicious attack upon American civil liberties, conducted by a group who call themselves a Citizens' Committee. Among the casualties are the city library and Miss Ruth Brown, city librarian for thirty years, who has long been active in local groups seeking to improve the lot of the town's Negro population.

For many years our library had been administered, under the provisions of an Oklahoma statute, by a library board having exclusive jurisdiction over both the staff and the library's contents. When this board refused to accede to demands that the librarian be discharged and the periodical list censored, the city commissioners enacted an ordinance under which the control of the library was vested in themselves, and the duties of the library board were restricted to advisory functions. The old library board was discharged, and a new board, made up of representatives and supporters of the so-called Citizens' Committee, was appointed.

The ordinance vesting control of the library in the city commissioners was enacted on June 14. Under the provisions of the city charter it could be questioned by referendum only during the thirty-day period following. On July 25 the city commissioners fired Miss Brown. No reason for this action was given, either to Miss Brown or to the community. On July 31 *The Nation* and the *New Republic* were removed from the shelves of the public library. On August 7 the newly appointed library board reported to the commissioners that the library's subscriptions for *Consumer Reports* and *The Negro Digest* had been canceled.

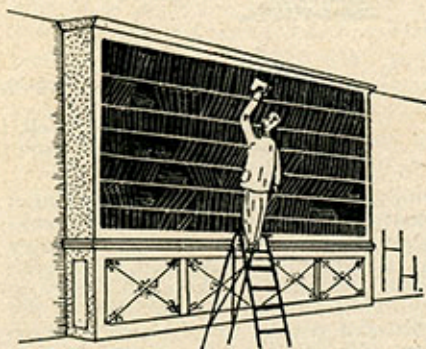
On August 1 a group of interested citizens attended the meeting of the newly appointed library board. We were informed (1) that the board had no responsibility with respect to the discharge of the city librarian, and (2) that *The Nation* and the *New Republic* had been removed from the library shelves "for study" since these publications had been criticized by the so-called Citizens' Committee.

On August 7 another group of citizens appeared at the meeting of the city commissioners and requested advice as to the reasons for the discharge of the city librarian. The city commissioners refused to state what those reasons were. This fact was not reported in the account of the meeting

published in our local newspaper, although a reporter for that paper was present at the meeting.

These events, in my judgment, have significance beyond their local impact. They are similar to events which have been occurring through this Middle Western area.

Those of us in Bartlesville who are concerned with this matter have made a strenuous effort to place the facts of the situation before the public. Both of the local newspapers have refused to carry news stories concerning the library controversy, beyond a bare recital of the facts that the librarian has been discharged, that the assistant librarian has resigned in protest, and that the library is being operated by temporary, nonprofessional personnel. One of the local newspapers refused a paid advertisement calling attention to the civil-liberties issues involved; the advertisement was carried by the other local newspaper, without comment. Through our efforts Gilbert Asher, a reporter from the *Tulsa Daily World*, came to Bartlesville and inter-



viewed a number of persons on both sides of the controversy, but no story has been published, and we have been advised by Mr. Asher that, by reason of the paper's policy, the story will not be published. A full report of the controversy and its background was furnished by our group to the *Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman*. On July 31 a very short story was published in that paper which, either by design or inadvertently, implied that subversive material had been found in the Bartlesville Library and that the discharged librarian was responsible therefor.

We feel that it is essential that the facts of this controversy be published, in order that the citizens of this community may be advised of what has transpired, and in order that those responsible may understand that the denial of Constitutional rights to our citizens has significance beyond the boundaries of our town.

DARLENE ANDERSON ESSARY.

Bartlesville, Okla.

"Across the River"

SIR: Allow me to congratulate you on Maxwell Geismar's review of Hemingway's latest offering [*SRL* Sept. 9]. So many of the critics, even including one or two of the more dependable ones, seem to have pulled their punches for reasons of their own—pulled their punches, I say, because they could hardly have failed to see that this book is an immensely embarrassing affair, and indeed an obscene caricature of some of the author's earlier work.

It is not a question of "bad" writing,

although the dialogue is enough to make anyone but an aficionado cringe and attempt to crawl under the rug. What is so shocking about this book is the picture which the author presents of himself, for the protagonist is clearly entrusted with the task of strutting the Hemingway stuff and spouting the Hemingway line.

DAVID PARTRIDGE.

New York, N. Y.

Elusive Garden Path

SIR: In response to L. F. Silvers [*LETTERS, SRL* Aug. 19], the phrase is "up" not "down the garden path." Could this possibly be an allusion to the Cretan labyrinth? I, too, have been unable to find its origin or first use.

MIRIAM ALLEN DEFORD.

San Francisco, Calif.

With or Without Piano

SIR: A conversation with the Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, the minister in John Hersey's "Hiroshima," when he was in the United States, revealed a problem in music training in a badly bombed city like Hiroshima that has probably not occurred to many of us. There are almost no instruments left and things like that will be the last to be replaced.

Miss Hilda Schuster, director of the Dalcroze School of Music in New York, is offering two full scholarships in the Teacher's Training Department to musically gifted young people from the Hiroshima Normal College. She has done this because two trained Dalcroze teachers can return to Japan and give fundamental music to hundreds of children and adults in a year. They could teach even if there were no piano. The work is more effective when a keyboard instrument is available, however.

We need help in raising the funds to bring the students from Hiroshima and we need homes in or near New York where the two could work for their room and board. The plan has been cleared with the Immigration authorities. The Dalcroze School is incorporated and tax free, which would make donations deductible from income taxes. We should like to hear from *SRL* readers who feel that the plan is worth considering.

URANA CLARK.

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New York, N. Y.

Dissent Over W. J. Bryan

SIR: Save for his mistakes in historical fact and judgment the book by Gerald W. Johnson, "Incredible Years," would be one of the best books that has appeared in summing up our first half of the twentieth century. The treatment of the Depression, the Roosevelt New Deal and its remedies, and World War II are all top stuff in fine form, and any American would profit by reading it.

But in his treatment of two men, William Jennings Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt, the author fails woefully to appraise them, to fix their true place in history, and to interpret properly the historical facts that surround their careers.

He solemnly declares that Bryan was mostly or only a "Voice" and that T. R. was only a "Set of Teeth." This