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Dr. Harry Todd Costello

Dr. Libby is the originator of the Radiocarbon Dating method of determining the age of objects originally obtained from living matter, and discussed this method at the lecture.

The doctor explained the revolutionary process, stating that a minute constant proportion of the carbon in living plants or animals is mildly radioactive. When the plant or animal dies this proportion of radiocarbon is not maintained, but loses its radioactivity at a fixed, known rate. By measuring the activity of the remaining radiocarbon in an ancient object, the doctor said, it is possible to determine its age with great precision up to about 20,000 years. The method is of considerable value in dating ancient manuscripts, relics unearthed by archeologists, etc.

Dr. Libby, a native of Grand Valley, Colo., did his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of California, receiving his doctorate in 1933. He remained there as an associate professor of chemistry until 1945, when he became professor at the Institute of Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago.

During the Second World War the doctor was a member of the scientific staff at the Columbia University Scientific and Metallurgical Laboratories, where much of the basic development work for one of the Oak Ridge Uranium isotope separation processes was carried out.

The doctor is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

CLASS AGENT—The Class Agent Committee for the Class of 1956 has been chosen and announced by the Executive Committee of the National Alumni Association. Bert Schader will serve as Class Agent, with Bob Davis and Dick Abbot acting as associates. Other committee members include Ned Montgomery, Bruce N. MacDonald, Thomas Guertin, Don Anderson, Frank Foley, Jack Vaughn, Jerry Pauley, George Willis, John Swett, Peter Turner, Bill Zito, Eero Raig, Dick Nissel, John Bartter, Jim Streeto, and George Skinner.

IFC ELECTIONS—William Pierce, Alpha Delta Phi, was elected president of the Interfraternity Council at the first meeting of the newly elected body. Bill Richards was named secretary, with Don Duff as treasurer.

Other members of the council, which represent Trinity's ten Greek fraternities, are: Russell Jones, John Parnum, John Woodward, Ronald LaBella, Frank Popowitz, Paul McLeod, and Peter Wilson.

SONG RECITAL—A song recital was presented under the auspices of the Music Department in the Music Room on Thursday May 18 at 8:15 p.m. The singers were Richard L. Fleming '56, tenor; and Ruth Jones, soprano, of Hartford. Dwight Oarr '57 accompanied the artists and also presented a group of piano selections.
Concerning Professor Costello

When in the course of human relations we are thinking about some one whom we know, presently, recently, or several years since, it is often satisfying to read some briefly factual account of the person as an external supplement to our own experienced acquaintance. Harry Todd Costello, Brownell Professor of Philosophy and Chairman of the Department in Trinity College since 1921, is personally known to some two thousand Alumni who were his students during those years and to many more as well through other activities. It is primarily for these personally acquainted persons that this summary statement concerning Professor Costello is published here at the time of his retirement from active teaching.

In the spring of 1920, Professor Perkins as Acting President of the College travelled to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in search of the best graduating student in Emerson Hall to replace Professor Urban. After seven years at Trinity College and originating the term, "Axiology," as a new name for an old way of thinking about things in terms of values, Professor Urban was moving on to Dartmouth College, leaving the one-man department at Trinity vacantly in need of another outstanding young man. In Cambridge Professor Perkins learned that by far the ablest among Harvard's recent graduates was a young man named Costello. A graduate of Earlham College, B.A. 1908, he had received his M.A. from Harvard in 1910 and his Ph.D. in 1911. Unfortunately no longer at Harvard, he was then teaching at Columbia, a college to the west of Yale, but it was thought that he might well consider an offer from Trinity. Professor Perkins promptly made this offer and, fortunately for Trinity College, the following year Dr. Ogilby approved his choice of Professor Costello. A little later on he was formally appointed Brownell Professor of Philosophy as of 1920.

As appraised after these many years, Professor Costello's rapid rise and superior success in Trinity College is not really surprising in terms of his graduate training and early teaching experience. His graduate study was carried through to completion in the closing years of the Periclean Age of Philosophy at Harvard. During his first winter in Cambridge, he heard William James lecture on several occasions and listened to a formal debate between James and Josiah Royce. Among others, he knew well and directly studied under Royce and Santayana, not to mention George Herbert Palmer who cheerfully admitted himself outclassed in that company.

During his final year in the Graduate School, Professor Costello worked closely with Royce and acted as a recording secretary for Royce's famous Seminar on Comparative Methodology. Among his fellow students in this seminar were Albert P. Brogan and a certain Tom Eliot from St. Louis, whose name Costello gave the Harvard spelling of "Eliot," but whom a good many people now know as T. S. Eliot.

Upon receiving his doctor's degree from Harvard, Professor Costello studied for a year in Paris, notably under the exceedingly popular lecturer, Henri Bergson. Required to furnish a recognized translation of his American diploma for admission to the University, he silenced the thrifty French officials concerned by simply pointing out that his Harvard degree was not English but already was written in the universally valid language of good Church Latin. After finishing with the French, Professor Costello returned to Harvard as an instructor in The Department for the next two years, going on from Cambridge to Columbia by way of one year spent in pleasurable teaching at Yale. While teaching at Harvard he had a certain Raphael Demos as one of his promising students and served as assistant for the notorious Bertrand Arthur William Russell, giving the first few lectures in logic for him when Russell failed to arrive at Harvard on time to begin his course.

Of the numerous, now notable names among Professor Costello's former students, twelve have become chairmen of departments of philosophy in a college or university. (At risk of the number thirteen, although Means cannot be officially classified as one of Professor Costello's students, being a somewhat later product of Yale, Harvard, and Professor Urban, professionally, as assistant to Professor Costello for many academic years, and personally in intellectual interest, development, and admiration, Means is as surely a Costello student as any of these others.)

In the late spring of 1916 Professor Costello talked with Royce for the last time. Royce asked him about his work at Yale and Columbia and, as they were parting, advised him to "get out of Columbia, they'll never understand you down there." This advice Costello followed in the fall of 1920 by coming to Trinity College and so completing something of an Ivy League circuit in teaching appointments.

For some years here at Trinity College he was affectionately known "below stairs" as "Joe Phil" before acquiring his present, more commonly familiar diminutive, "Butch." This unexplained change in nickname, taking place around 1930, was apparently accomplished in the years while George K. Funston was in residence as a student.

In 1930 Professor Costello returned to Harvard for a term as Lecturer in Philosophy, and in 1952 he gave the 4th series of Woodbridge Lectures in Columbia University. These lectures were published in 1954 by the Columbia University Press under his title for the series, "A Philosophy of the Real and the Possible." In a critical review of this book for the Journal of Philosophy, Professor Curt John Ducasse, Chairman Emeritus of the Philosophy Department in Brown University, Continued on page 14
Drama and the Curriculum

by George E. Nichols III
Assistant Professor of Drama

Like music, drama is included in the liberal arts curriculum to be studied as an art and to be performed as a craft. As one of the major species of literature, drama is appropriately read and studied in the classroom. But the mere reading of a play is as far from the final expression of the artistic intent of the playwright as the reading of a musical score is from the intent of the composer.

Music and plays are created for performance, and not until one hears music or sees plays will he be able to develop a full appreciation of these arts. Happily, there are devices like radios and phonographs which can expose one to the infinite riches of music. The listener may enjoy great performances in solitude or in company. But for the avid theatre-goer there is nothing, not even motion pictures nor television, that adequately substitutes for the living experience of participation in drama as audience or actor. Hence college-dramatic groups are formed, not just to develop self-confidence and poise, nor merely to satisfy the exhibitionistic yearnings of would-be actors, but to enrich the liberal arts education by offering the college as fine theatrical experiences as circumstances make possible.

The word play is misleading. True, it is that theatre is a world of pretense, but it is a pretense of serious and hard-working technicians ranging from stage-hands to leading actors, all trying to create by their efforts a world of artistic reality. Drama, like poetry, is written in the first person, present tense, and its impact is dynamic, intense and immediate. The play performed acquires a life that no amount of reading will bring to it, for it reaches the audience through both eyes and ears. To stage a Greek or Elizabethan play is quite literally to regenerate with the vibrancy of living performances two or three hours from eras gone by. It gives both the actors and the audience as close a first-hand participation in a few living moments of the past as is possible.

But reanimation of the past is not the sole function of the drama. In drama we see ideals in action. The goodness of great drama is not that it deals with the problems of an age. It deals with the problems of men in action of whatever age. Shakespeare's enduring appeal does not derive so much from his ability to tell a story or to write gorgeous poetry. It stems rather from his ever astonishing understanding of human nature, of character. And all drama worthy of being produced fulfills this same function; it reveals to us men of all ages, cultures and stations grappling, sometimes grimly, sometimes humorously, with the complexities of life itself. If one of the purposes of the liberal arts education is to develop in the student a deeper, more tolerant understanding of his fellow man, then drama helps here, too.

Because drama is a complex, specialized craft, it probably should not be offered as a major in the undergraduate curriculum, for dramatics as a career requires intensive concentration on both the academic and practical aspects of the subject. One has to learn the aesthetics and the material limitations of his craft. This is not to say, however, that one cannot begin to familiarize himself with theatre art while he is still in college. Drama in the liberal arts college serves a number of purposes. First, it may expose a few interested students to the possibilities of drama as a career. The study of drama as literature and the practice of writing plays can sharpen the sensibilities of the student to the uniqueness of dramatic expression. Secondly, participation in drama as an extracurricular activity offers the students in the performance an opportunity to try out the craft. More importantly, it obliges the actors to understand the form, drama, and to delve intensively into the characters they are portraying in order to understand and convey to the audience the motivations for actions that underlie the written words. Whether he knows it or not, the actor creating a role is deepening his understanding of the sources of human actions by his attempt to animate a written text that in itself has been created in an attempt to give significance to life's experiences. Thirdly, the dramatic program of a liberal arts college should strive to expose the students to as many varieties of drama as possible. Even under the present limited circumstances, a student at Trinity can see over a four-year period at least eight plays--sometimes more. Ideally, then, he should be able to witness at least one play from such great periods as the Greek, Elizabethan and Neo-Classic French, as well as a number of significant dramas from the eclectic modes of the modern period. Finally, and possibly most importantly, drama functions in liberal arts to train and deepen the appreciation of all students of an art that can broaden their experience and deepen their understanding.

To these several ends the few dramatic courses and the extra-curricular activities of the Jesters are dedicated. Over the protest of some of the students of the hot-off-Broadway frame of mind, the Jesters has presented during the last five years what it regards as a liberal diet of drama. Among the undertakings of a serious nature have been such classics as Oedipus the King, and Dr. Faustus; and representing contemporary voices have been O'Neill's The Hairy Ape, Rice's The Adding

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The Importance of Being Earnest - In Review

By T. H. Parker
The Hartford Courant

As Spring is particularly a time for lightheadedness and lightheartedness, it was doubly pleasant to sit in Trinity's Alumni Hall last night and watch The Jesters put on "The Importance of Being Earnest."

For certainly Oscar Wilde's play is a vernal delight, and The Jesters are giving it a merry whirl. George Nichols has staged it with ribtickling fancy. Straight faces throughout only accentuate the highly mocking style of his direction, in which the acting of an earlier day is parodied, even as Wilde pokes fun at his own time. The temper and tone of the piece as Mr. Nichols sees it are just right, full of brio, and with a nice standing of what is permanent in Wilde and what is ephemeral.

There are fledgling and veteran actors in the cast, but all are investing their roles with relish. First and foremost, they have all struck a shrewd balance between the deliberateness with which the infinite number of paradoxes and epigrams must be set out properly to be appreciated by the audience, and the zest with which the lines must be carried forward if realism and spontaneity are to be retained.

In addition, they all appreciate that quality of acting called style. In this case this practically means stylization, an arch elegance, which the audience is called on partly to scoff, partly to admire. This is perhaps the highest merit of The Jesters' performance.

Duane Wolcott and Robert Perce are beautifully teamed as cynical Algernon and the petulant Jack. They are each other's fine foils; they have a keen taste for comedy; they play with high verve. In Jeanette Karny, top-loyal Gwendolyn, and Elizabeth Leaby, as spirited Cecily, the company has two gifted and charming comedienne. Florence Mead is of course the veteran of the cast, and her imperious manner and voice that scales suddenly up and down, are ideal for Lady Bracknell. Remington Rose is Canon Chasuble, diverting in his pietistics and his pursued manner. Anne Morris is properly Miss Prism. And to round out the pairs, Martyn Perry and John Allen neatly milk all the humors out of their lesser roles as the butlers.

The simple, crayon-sketched panels that serve as sets are nicely in the spirit of things, as well as practical.

by Elias F. Mengel
Instructor in English

One of the special treats of the gala Prom weekend was the five night run of The Importance of Being Earnest, April 26 through May 1.

With the sudden appearance of the longed for Spring, no one had been feeling very earnest, but the Jesters were, and it paid off. They had obviously labored long and hard to deliver the Wilde lines, so in tune with the time, in the high-handed and light-hearted manner he calls for. But Spring fever and party mood aside, George Nichols and his cast had to deal with some serious deterrents. The play itself is a challenge since it demands an elegantly polished performance rarely seen in amateur groups, yet the Jesters carried it off in surprisingly high style. Secondly, it must be disheartening to have to work in such an inadequate, makeshift theater. The quality of the performance, the quality of the play and the Mayfair quality it deals with certainly deserved something more solidly appropriate and visually pleasing than a token set and simple backdrop, although these were not in themselves objectionable. It does seem a pity that, given such a gifted director and group, Trinity has not yet given them a theater.

The whole cast reflects Mr. Nichols' imaginative direction. Duane Wolcott and Robert Perce caught very well the stylish stiffness of the cucumber sandwich set. Mr. Perce, especially, avoided the danger of a monotonous rigidity by showing so

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THE CAST
Algernon Moncrieff by Duane N. Wolcott, Jr.; Lane, by Martyn Perry; John Worthing, J. P. by Robert N. Perce, Jr.; Lady Bracknell by Florence A. Mead; Hon. Gwendolyn Fairfax by Jeanette C. Karny; Miss Prism by Anne Morris; Cecily Cardew by Elizabeth Ann Leaby; Rev. Canon Chasuble, D. D., by Remington E. Rose; Merriman by John Allen. Directed by George E. Nichols III.

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This is the first in a series of Spotlight articles which the editors plan for succeeding magazine issues. We hope that as we turn our spotlight to different corners of the campus we can give you a better understanding of some of the problems which arise in the operation of a small college such as Trinity.

We think you will be interested in such stories as admissions, placement, a day with the President, a day with the faculty, the student Senate, the Trustees, public relations, central services, the alumni organization, the development program, etc. We do not plan exhaustive articles, but merely to present a few vignettes that will give our readers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of what goes on "Neath the Elms."

TRINITY AT WORK

Spotlight on Grades

What's in a Grade?

Obviously the greatest importance of a grade is its measure of student performance in relationship to the rest of his classmates. As rating the performance is an extremely important part of the work of the faculty and administration, the purpose of this article is to illustrate, graphically and pictorially, how a grade comes into being.

First and foremost, the student, through recitation, quizzes and exams, demonstrates his proficiency in a subject. Much effort goes into this preparation—research in the library on assigned projects, laboratory work, individual conferences between student and instructor, and a goodly amount of just plain "boning." The instructor weighs all considerations, then rates the student numerically according to his academic proficiency. The resulting grade is then
turned over to the Dean’s Office to be recorded.

The most important function of the processing of the grade, the student-professor relationship, is now over. But there is much administrative work to be done before the grades are in the hands of the student and his parents. This grade is recorded on the student’s permanent record card, and is submitted to the Dean of Students, who determines if the student is to be placed on the Dean’s List. The Dean also has the unpleasant task of determining if a student must be recommended to the faculty for restrictive action.

Photostating in triplicate is the next step. This is a large and time-consuming job yet must be performed in a minimum of time. A team of about ten students, under the supervision of the Public Relations and Dean’s offices, is utilized to operate a giant photostat machine in the basement of Williams Memorial, collect the photostats to be delivered to the faculty advisors, and mail a copy to the student’s parents, or to the student himself if he has reached his majority.

The copies of the permanent record cards are in the hands of each student’s advisor at the time the student registers for his next semester’s courses. The advantages of this procedure are two-fold: it enables the advisor to see what progress has been made by his advisee, and he is able to check all the courses taken by the student up to that point in his college career. Thus the advisor is able to see whether the student has met all required courses, saving the student from making omissions that might affect his graduation.

These very briefly are the stages a grade goes through before it reaches the student as an indication of his academic excellence.
MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM CHANGE

The mathematics requirement for Bachelor of Arts Candidates was changed by vote of the faculty at its March meeting. The new requirement now reads: "Mathematics, one course: Mathematics 100, 101, or Mathematics 101, 102."

To make possible this succession of courses it was necessary also to create a new course, Mathematics 100. The course description reads "College Algebra.—A careful treatment of the number system, review of intermediate algebra, topics from theory of equations, and determinants. This course does not count toward the major in mathematics and cannot be taken for credit by any student who has passed Mathematics 101."

These new rules will not affect students now in the College.

The Class of 1960 will start with either Math 100 or 101. Though the entering freshmen will be permitted to select their math courses, the better students will be expected to take 101.

Other changes in the requirements are: (1) All ROTC students, previously exempt from the second semester of the math requirement, will have to take the prescribed one year of mathematics; (2) Students who have passed 101 but who fail 102 will no longer have the alternative choice of taking a second year of laboratory science. All students must complete one full year's work in mathematics.

These changes in the College Math requirement are the result of a two year study by the Curriculum Committee. The new plan, originally suggested by the mathematics department, was considered the most feasible of some 16 or 17 proposals made by faculty members.

NOMINEES FOR ALUMNI TRUSTEE

Harmon T. Barber '19, Windsor, Conn., Joseph Buffington Jr. '18, Philadelphia, and Charles T. Easterby '16, Pittsburgh, have been nominated for Alumni Trustee of the College, it was announced by Russell Z. Johnston '16, president of the Alumni Association. Hugh S. Campbell '32, who holds the post to be filled through the election, has declined renomination for the customary second term. He explained his position in a letter to L. Barton Wilson III '37, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stating in part, "The point is that the position is a point of honor—a recognition for an individual alumnus. It seems to me that we should endeavor to widen rather than restrict the opportunity for our graduates by initiating the practice of having the Alumni Trustee elected for only one term. In this fashion it will be possible to pay appropriate respect to an increasing number of eligible alumni."

A mail ballot to elect one of the three candidates is being sent this month to all Trinity degree holders.

Mr. Barber is Actuary for the Casualty Actuarial Department of the Travelers Insurance Company. Mr. Buffington is Manager of the Trading Department, Arthurs Lestrange & Co., and Mr. Easterby manages, heads and owns Charles T. Easterby & Co., insurance brokers. All have been very active in the civic, cultural, and business life of their communities and have long records of distinguished alumni service to Trinity.

They were nominated by a committee including, in addition to Mr. Wilson, George H. M. Rountree '40, William B. Starkey '44, Norton Ives '16, and Jay E. Geiger '50.

DRAMA

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Machine, and Anderson's Key Largo. Within the chapel have been offered plays underscored by an urgent sense of religion: the medieval mystery play, The Second Shepherds Play, Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral, Fry's A Sleep of Prisoners. Comedy has not taken a second place. Humorous and moving pieces like The Male Animal and The Hasty Heart have been performed. Last fall the Jesters had its first experience in over twenty years with Shakespeare when Much Ado About Nothing was offered. Shaw's Misalliance exposed audiences to the nimble mind of one of the most provocative of modern dramatists. And farce, exercises in sheer enjoyment for the audience, in technique for the actor, has been represented by Room Service, The Man Who Came to Dinner, and this spring by The Importance of Being Earnest.

The old argument persists: Is drama for delight or instruction? To attempt to answer would be fruitless, for if the theatre cannot entertain its audiences it will have no audience to play for. And if it has no substance to enrich the experience of its audiences, it has no reason for existing. Therefore, drama at Trinity attempts to fulfill both these functions equally and simultaneously.

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much style beneath his stiffness. As their young ladies, the Misses Kamy and Leahy were particularly effective in the politely devastating tea scene. The real high point of the play, of course, is the famous interview of the formidable Lady Bracknell, that monster who is no chimera, and her squirming victim, Jack Worthing. Miss Mead, whose voice is well fitted to the role, read her lines with the proper degree of hauteur and the utmost of modern dramatists. And farce, exercises in shear enjoyment for the audience, in technique for the actor, has been represented by Room Service, The Man Who Came to Dinner, and this spring by The Importance of Being Earnest.

The latter particularly, with his studied gestures and pompous eloquence, seemed to revel in his fuddy-duddy, unctuous role; likewise, Messers. Perry and Allen put everything they had into their "butting". Of course, we all came for pleasure ("What else should bring one anywhere?" Jack Worthing asks), and we were well rewarded.
The “Program of Progress” campaign continues to do just that—progress!

Albert Holland, vice president in charge of development, announced the latest contribution figures to the Bulletin. His report showed that contributions in the Greater Hartford area had exceeded $520,000, which places this phase of the drive over the halfway mark as the workers seek to reach their $1,000,000 goal. Mr. Holland said the local drive would soon enter the Corporate “A” giving phase, under the leadership of Peter M. Fraser Hon. ’55. The goal for this phase is $500,000.

Nationally, reported Mr. Holland, contributions now exceed $1,500,000, which he called “an encouraging intake, considering the drive has only been active since March.” National participation began to pick up, he said, with the recent kickoff meeting in New York.

Local press, radio and television people have played a “significant part” in the success of the local drive thus far according to Trinity’s Public Relations Director. “Under the able leadership of Walter Haase, the general manager of station WDRC, the ‘Program of Progress’ has received splendid recognition from all the local radio and television stations,” he commented. Mr. Haase heads the special committee formed to find increasing ways of bringing the College and its development plans before the public. “The local press has continued to show the warm spirit of cooperation which has marked all our relations with them,” he added.

Dr. Jacobs also had encouraging news with the announcement of several especially notable gifts. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, he reported, has contributed $50,000 to the campaign, earmarked for remodeling Williams Memorial Hall. Mrs. Beatrice Fox Auerbach and the company she heads, G. Fox, have contributed $100,000; an anonymous friend of the College added $50,000; and Miss Mabel Johnson contributed $22,475 to establish a scholarship fund in memory of her uncle, Brigadier General Griffin A. Stedman, Trinity 1859.

The gift by the Hartford Foundation was the largest given by that organization this year. One of the goals of the “Program of Progress” is the raising of $100,000 for remodeling Williams Memorial, and the $50,000 gift placed this at the halfway mark. Included in the remodeling plans are new faculty offices, faculty and staff lounges, and relocation of Central Services and Public Relations.

The continued generosity of Mrs. Auerbach and her company has caused the Trustees of the College to create the G. Fox and Co. Professorship of Economics. In speaking of the endowed chair, Mrs. Auerbach said, “Trinity, like all educational institutions, must have facilities which keep abreast of the marvelous intangibles with which they endow their students. It is our fervent hope that this company will, through the G. Fox and Co. Chair of Economics, help the youth at Trinity to gain a deeper knowledge of economics.” When the presentation was made, Dr. Jacobs thanked Mrs. Auerbach for her gift, commenting that it meant “a very great deal to the College. Not only does it strengthen the ties between Trinity and Hartford,” he said, “but it recognizes the necessity for an outstanding faculty as well as the important place of economics in a liberal arts curriculum.”

The anonymous gift for $50,000 was received in the early part of this year from an “old friend of the College,” and Miss Johnson’s scholarship gift of $22,475 will perpetuate the memory of her uncle, who lost his life in the Civil War. A statue of the General, who is known in memory as the “Typical Connecticut Soldier,” now stands in the eastern part of Hartford, and Miss Johnson recalls well unveiling it in 1900. Dr. Jacobs said the gift was a “fine contribution to the sum being raised in the campaign to endow new scholarships.” The College has set a $500,000 goal for this purpose.
WITH THE FACULTY

Ten Trinity faculty members have received promotions during the academic year now drawing to a close. Of these, five have been reported recently in the Alumni Newspaper. The more recent promotions, announced May 4 by President Jacobs, include Dr. Thurman L. Hood, Mr. John C. E. Taylor, Dr. Eugene W. Davis, Dr. Clarence H. Barber, and Dr. Winfield Scott Worrall.

Dr. Hood has been named Professor of English. He received his A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard, where he began teaching in 1912. He was Instructor in English at Harvard and Secretary of the Committee on the Use of English by Students in 1928, when he was invited to join the Faculty of Trinity College as Dean and Assistant Professor of English, in charge of the Freshman required course in English composition. In 1938 he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, and in 1941 resigned as Dean in order to devote himself exclusively to instruction.

Dr. Hood is an authority on the life and works of Browning. His first major publication in this field was a monograph in Harvard Studies in Classical Philology entitled Robert Browning’s Ancient Classical Sources, in 1922. He was awarded a Dexter Fellowship by Harvard University and in 1928 and again in 1931 a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for research in England in connection with the compilation and editing of Letters from Robert Browning to Various Correspondents, published in London by John Murray and in New Haven by the Yale University Press in 1932. At that time he contributed a noteworthy article on Browning and Lady Ashburton to the Yale Review and was elected Honorary Life Member of the Boston Browning Society. He has recently announced discoveries in connection with the history of the composition of The Ring and the Book and last year he announced important discoveries of several literary sources of Keats’ Ode on a Grecian Urn.

The second promotion announced by President Jacobs was that of Mr. John C. E. Taylor to the position of professor of fine arts. A well-known and widely exhibited artist, Mr. Taylor joined the Trinity faculty in 1941. He had received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Yale, and studied at the Academie Julian in Paris from 1926 to 1928. Since 1929 he has painted professionally and from 1936 to 1941 he taught at the Lawrenceville School. From 1942 to 1945 he had charge of the art departments of Loomis and Chaffee Schools in Windsor, while teaching at Trinity. From 1945 to 1947 he also gave history of art lectures at the Hartford Art School.

Mr. Taylor’s honors in his field include three prizes and four honorable mentions. He is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, the Rockport and North Shore Arts Associations, the Salmagundi Club, the Hartford Chapter of the Archeological Institute, the University Club of Hartford, the Society of Colonial Wars, and Zeta Psi.

A native of New Haven, Mr. Taylor is married to the former Eleanor V. D. Beckwith. They have three children, John, Jr., Eleanor and Oliver.

Dr. Eugene W. Davis has been named associate professor of history. A native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas, where he received his A.B. degree, Mr. Davis was appointed to the Trinity faculty in 1948. The doctor did his graduate work at Harvard, where he received his M.A.; and the University of North Carolina. Prior to his appointment at Trinity he was an instructor in social sciences at the latter.

Dr. Davis is a member of the American Historical Association, the American Philological Association, president of the local chapter of the Archeological Institute, and a member of the Classical Association of New England. Born in Houston, he is the son of Mrs. Meroe W. Dunlay, now of Fairbanks, Texas, and the late James Ross Davis. During the Second World War Dr. Davis served with Army Intelligence as a first lieutenant.

Dr. Clarence H. Barber, who received his undergraduate, M.A. and doctorate degrees from Harvard University, has been named assistant professor of music.

The doctor came to Trinity in 1954, following intensive study both here and abroad. After receiving his M.A. in music in 1942, Dr. Barber spent four years in the U. S. Army, then studied piano with Armand Ferte and solfège with Edmond Marc at the Conservatoire Nationale in Paris. In 1948 he was at the Juliard Summer School of Music studying piano with Josef Raieff, and later studied choral conducting with Robert Shaw. He received his doctorate in the field of French Church Music in 1954.

Dr. Barber held an assistant professorship at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., from 1946 to 1949, and also taught at Calvin Coolidge College, Boston. From 1949 to 1954 he was organist and choirmaster of the First Congregational Church, Wellesley Hills, Mass. He has published articles on French Church Music in “The Diapason”, and also written program notes for the Haydn Society and Vox Recordings.

The doctor, graduated from Harvard Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude, is a member of the Société Francaise de MusicoLOGie, and the American Guild of Organists. In 1952-1953 he studied under a Fulbright Grant at the Conservatoire Nationale in Paris, and also attended the Ecole Normale de Musique, where he studied organ.

A native of Nashua, N.H., Dr. Barber is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence L. Barber, of Arlington, Mass.

The last promotion announced by Dr. Jacobs was that of Dr. Winfield Scott Worrall, to the position of assistant professor of chemistry. Dr. Worrall came to Trinity in 1954 after spending four years with the Monsanto Chemical Co. as a research chemist.

A 1942 graduate of Haverford College, in Haverford, Pa., Dr. Worrall received his M.A. and doctorate from Harvard University.

The doctor, a native of Cheltenham, Pa., is a member of the American Chemical Society and The Chemical Society. In 1949 he married the former Sheryl Holland, of Kansas City. They have one son, Winfield Scott III.

The other faculty promotions previously reported include Dr. Blanchard Means to Brownell Professor of Philosophy; Dr. Walter J. Klimczak to associate professor of mathematics; Mr. Karl Kurth Jr. to associate professor of physical education; Dr. Michael R. Campo to assistant professor of romance languages; and Mr. Roy A. Dath to assistant professor of physical education.

The following reappointments of assistant professor for three years
ON CAMPUS

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EMERSON SOCIETY—Dr. Kenneth Walter Cameron, Associate Professor of English, while on leave of absence this year, has helped to found the Emerson Society. It will endeavor to bring together "a group of scattered friends of the American Renaissance, who desire to keep in touch with each other through a quarterly publication in which their common interest may be shared."

Long a noted American Literature scholar, Dr. Cameron will be editor-in-chief of the Emerson Society Quarterly, which "will publish communications, news, bibliographies, short articles and book reviews, attempting within the limits of its resources to assist the growing interest in American literature." The second issue has already been published.

Among the list of original charter members are several Trinity names: Professor of English Morse S. Allen, Earle Fox '57, and Stephen Tudor '55. Some of the world's greatest authorities on Emerson are also members.

Particularly interesting is the opening article by Dr. Cameron in the second issue, giving an interpretation and the significance of Emerson's "Second Merlin Song." Trinity's Professor Louis Naylor contributed to the first edition a translation of a letter by an Italian carriage driver who contracted to drive Emerson on a trip from Rome to Florence in 1833.

TV FORUM—David J. Elliott '57 represented Trinity in a four-college forum discussing "Where Is Our Foreign Policy Taking Us" over New York television station WABD (Channel 5) on Sunday, April 29.

Representatives from Harvard, Mississippi University and Brooklyn University also participated on the program, moderated by Barbara Mantino. Mrs. Vera Dean was the adult guest. The program was filmed, sent to Van-derbilt University, and will be shown throughout the country.

Elliott, active undergraduate, is president of Trinity's Foreign Policy Association and Chairman of the Intercollegiate Foreign Policy Association Conference. A dean's list student, he is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the college band.

PI KAPPA ALPHA PICNIC—About 60 youngsters from the American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, were entertained at a picnic May 5 given by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. The outing was held at the Newington State Park.

The event marks the first time the 40 brothers of the fraternity have sponsored such an affair.

Pi Kappa Alpha president Dave Rohling, a junior from Rock Island, Ill., was on the arrangements committee, which was headed by Fred Berglass, a sophomore from Brooklyn, N.Y. Berglass is the alumni secretary of the chapter. Ted Brown, from Jamaica, N.Y., also helped with arrangements.

The idea came into being when Dr. Edmund Boatner, head of the School for the Deaf, was invited to an alumni affair given by the undergraduate chapter. Dr. Boatner is an alumnus of Pi Kappa Alpha. Talk among the boys drifted to the doctor and his work, and the idea of the picnic evolved.

SOAP BOX DERBY—A soap box derby, sponsored by the Interfraternity Council, was one of the highlights of the recent Senior Ball weekend. Vernon Street, the scene of the maelstrom, was blocked off to prevent innocent motorists from entering the holocaust. Each fraternity was represented by a home-made racer, the dimensions, design and weight left to the discretion of each house.

The variety of structures passing for racers was, to say the least, interesting. Materials utilized included a coffin packing case, a bathtub, several peach baskets, a couple of airplane tail wheels, and other useful, speed-producing items.

It was a notable race. All entrants left the starting line successfully, with the exception of the Deke racer, the coffin crate, which disintegrated at the sound of the gun. Crow's bath tub almost met with serious mishap at the starting line when a 50-pound anchor, presumably brought along as ballast, fell overboard and nearly capsized the goggled two-man crew. Most of the racers, however, managed to leave at approximately the same time.

Many of the zephyrs, built for speed only, were designed without sufficient braking power. This lamentable oversight was remedied somewhat by the stationing of the
more courageous members of each fraternity at the finish line to slow down their speeding brethren, before they could tangle with Broad Street traffic.

St. Anthony’s Hall won the event, but the outcome is being disputed. It seems an imported ringer from Smith drove the winning car. Pi Kappa Alpha offered to race all comers up Vernon Street, but remained unchallenged when it was discovered the PKA entry had a motor.

Despite the high-jinks of the race, the purpose was serious. Obtaining the idea originally from the Tripod, each fraternity contributed $12.50 toward sponsoring an underprivileged child in the Hartford Soap Box Derby, which is to be held under the auspices of the Hartford Times and the Chevrolet Motor Co. The boys being sponsored were on hand to judge the finish (sic.).

THE SENATE—The names of the men filling the 12 Senate positions for the academic year 1956-1957 were announced by retiring Senate President Hugh Zimmerman. The winners in the recent senatorial race were: St. Anthony Hall: Terry Frazer; Alpha Delta Phi: Ron Foster; Phi Kappa Psi: Frank Bulkeley; Alpha Chi Rho: Ted Brown; Sigma Nu: Doug Raynard; Delta Phi: Fred Snider; Psi Upsilon: Brooks Baker; Brownell: John O’Connell; on-campus-neutral: Umberto Solano. Since off-campus neutrals, for the second year in a row, did not nominate two candidates for election, the new Senate voted to rescind permanently the office of Off-Campus-Senator.

Brooks Baker was elected President of the Senate, and thus, of the student body. Baker, a Psi Upsilon from Washington, D.C., is a political science major. Besides being active in the Foreign Policy Association, he is a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club, the Jesters, and the Aviation Club.

Neil Day, Theta Zi, was elected Secretary and Ron Foster, Alpha Delta Phi, was elected Treasurer. Both are also active in campus activities.

Winners in the senior class election were: Don Duff, Delta Phi, President; Faul Cataldo, Sigma Nu, Vice-president; Bill Pierce, Alpha Delta Phi, Secretary-Treasurer, and Sam Niness, Alpha Delta Phi, Class Marshal.

On The Athletic Fields

The red-hot Bantam baseball team now boasts five straight victories since losing a 1-0 heartbreaker to Army. Their overall record is 7 wins and 3 losses.

Pitchers George Case and Moe Drabowsky continue to be highly effective, and they are being touted as “the two best college pitchers in New England.” Case has tossed three consecutive three-hitters, and has a 3-1 record on the year. Drabowsky is 4-2.

Charlie Sticka has taken over the top position in the hitting department, with a .400-plus average at present. He is followed by the smooth fielding Fred Baird, with .308. Captain Ron Kozuch has dipped to .265, but continues to lead in runs-batted-in and total bases. He has hit three home runs.

Trinity scores to date: George Washington 2-3; Georgetown, 13-0; George Washington, 9-8; Navy, 4-11; Army, 0-1; Norwich, 6-1; Middlebury, 11-1; Springfield, 5-2; Coast Guard, 11-1; Colby, 9-1. Foes still to be met: Columbia, Amherst, Wesleyan (four times), Coast Guard, University of Mass., and Tufts.

The varsity track team is having its troubles, having won only two of five meets, and being thoroughly outclassed in two of its three losses. In the opener traditional rival Wesleyan showed its strength by tacking a very solid 71-29 defeat on the Bantams. Trinity fought valiantly against the strong U. of Mass. aggregate, but lost in the final event, 64-62. The first win came when Coast Guard fell, 74-4 to 51%, and then Amherst came through with a 54-41 win. Middlebury fell, 69 2/3 to 56 1/3. The trackmen have scheduled meets with Middlebury, Worcester Tech., and Vermont left, as well as participation in the Eastern Intercollegiates.

Varsity tennis is currently boasting a 4 won, 1 lost record, having dumped Rhode Island, 9-0; Middlebury, 6-3; Worcester Tech, 9-0; and U. of Mass., 8-1. Amherst inflicted the sole defeat, 8-1. The netmen still must meet Clark, Springfield, A.I.C., and Wesleyan, and play in the New Englands at Harvard.

The frosh baseball team is currently 4-1 on the season, with six games to go; the freshman track team has won one and lost one of their six game schedule; the golf team has won their only match to date, beating Worcester Tech., 4-3; the freshman tennis team lost to Amherst, and has six games remaining; and the lacrosse team has lost three straight with three remaining.

STUDENT ARTIST—Mike Schacht ’58 won First Mention in oil painting at the annual college exhibit held in the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts. The 115 entries from over 20 colleges were on display from April 15 to May 13.

Eight other Trinity students entered works in the oils, water colors, graphic and sculpture divisions of the contest.

PIANO RECITAL—Dwight Orr ’57 from Cos Cob, Conn., was heard in a piano recital at the Eastern Junior High School, Riverside, Conn., on Saturday, April 28.

The 21-year-old pianist-organist is becoming increasingly renowned in musical circles, having appeared twice with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra and as soloist with the Babylon Orchestra in Long Island. He has also played in many of the large churches and cathedrals throughout the country, and has been heard several times on nationwide network radio.
Student Profile

Perhaps "profile" is a word too limited to describe the many-sided H. Brooks Baker, a member of the class of 1957, who is student, inventor, campus leader, television personality, and orator all rolled into one.

Those who know him well are always in a state both resigned and expectant so far as his next achievement is concerned. As one friend put it recently: "It is possible that he is working on a Pulitzer-prize novel without our being aware that he has any paper on his desk."

Brooks is now in the process of forming, at least in the letter-head stage, an organization called "Baker Dynamics" for the purpose of exploiting some of the lucrative ideas that have given him national publicity in the past few months. In the middle of April he was elected to the College Senate from Psi Upsilon; a week later he became president of that body which means leader of the undergraduate campus. Last spring he won a coveted speaking prize and intends to enter the lists again this month. In the fall he took a difficult role in the Jesters' production of "Much Ado About Nothing" and put his dark countenance to work on the saturnine and villainous role of Don John.

Brooks Baker's inventive career began last winter when he created a children's game called "Spellavision" guaranteed to entertain and at the same time teach boys and girls how to spell. Already in the final copyright and patent stages (Brooks lost no time in making all of the arrangements in his native Washington) the game will go on the market in the fall in time for the Christmas trade. He is already at work on adaptations of it designed to make it a permanent favorite and he hopes to work out French, German, and Spanish editions of it as well. And no sooner had he finished the patent preliminaries on "Spellavision" than he began to hawk another invention, this time a gadget called a "Keep-Kap" which will preserve the unused half of a lemon, orange, or grapefruit for days and even weeks after it has been cut. Meanwhile he is dabbling in the entertainment field with a new card game that promises to be both fun and informative.

Brooks combines this inventive and lucrative twist with a safe "B" average and a steady place on a television panel which takes him to Washington two week-ends a month. For the past year and a half he has been a member of ABC's College Press Conference and has been seen chatting and tangling with a galaxy of public men that includes Harold Stassen, Estes Kefauver, John Sparkman, and members of the diplomatic corps and federal cabinet. Familiarly known as "Senator" to his friends long before he was elected to the student Senate, Brooks plans a political career and has a goodly heritage to back him up. Washington-born, Brooks came to Trinity from the Gilman School in Baltimore. An attack of polio when he was fourteen cut short his active participation in sports. Since then he has entered more arenas of activity than most people can crowd into a lifetime. Among other things he organized a political club of both Republicans and Democrats in Baltimore for the purpose of awakening public interest in government. And soon he is scheduled to receive a decoration from the Peruvian government. Last summer he toured Europe and this summer he will work at the Republican National Convention. In the meantime he has a few more inventions that he is keeping to himself. But since "Baker Dynamics" is behind it all, we'll hear about them fairly soon.

At The Library

"Are Women the Natural Enemies of Books?", an interesting talk by Mrs. Anne Lyon Haight, was the highlight of this year's annual meeting of the Trinity College Associates held April 20 with over 125 in attendance.

Mrs. Haight began her talk by commenting that women are sometimes classed "with the other enemies of books: damp, dust, dirt, book worms, careless readers, borrowers and books ghouls . . ." But many women, contended Mrs. Haight, were and are true lovers of books and learning "not only for their own pleasure and education, but as contributors to the development of scholarship and to the dissemination of knowledge in the world."

Some of the outstanding examples of which Mrs. Haight spoke were Cleopatra, Marie Stewart, Madame de Pompadour and Marie Antoinette. She concluded that wives "have even been known to spend their marketing money on books instead of attending to their housewifely duties. Book collecting . . . is a common denominator of all ages and a medium through which the minds of both sexes may meet with pleasure and therefore greatly to be recom
mended as a delightful occupation.”

The meeting was held in the Library Conference Room with the chairman, Clarence E. Sherman ’11, presiding. An exhibition of “Banned Books” over the ages was on display in the lobby cases, based largely on the successful book of the same name by Mrs. Haight, who is the wife of Sherman P. Haight ’11.

The winners of the third annual Student Book Collectors Contest sponsored by the Associates were announced at the meeting, and their collections were on display. First prize went to Howard H. Rapp Jr. ’58, of Wynnewood, Pa., for a collection on antiques. Second prizewinner was Dale C. Nelson ’56, Middletown, for a theological collection which he has planned as the start of a minister’s working library. Barnett M. Sneideman, Plainville, a freshman, took third prize with a collection on the Civil War. Peter Cheney, another freshman from Hingham, Mass., received honorable mention for his modern literature.

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To prosper and grow, the College Library depends heavily on gifts, and Librarian Donald B. Engley was happy to report several received since we were last in print. “Clarence I. Penn ’12,” reports Mr. Engley, “has made a succession of gifts of long-playing phonograph records to the Library. These are designed to supplement the printed word in teaching and to cover the areas of drama, poetry and speech. Among the more than a score of records are included T. S. Eliot’s The Cocktail Party and Murder in the Cathedral, Christopher Fry’s The Lady’s Not for Burning, and the score of Laurence Olivier’s motion picture production of Richard III. The poetic work of Dylan Thomas, Marianne Moore, and E. E. Cummings, read by the authors themselves, is also part of the collection as well as recordings of Winston Churchill’s speeches.

“The spoken word on records can be a vital element of teaching, and Mr. Penn is making it possible for us to make the class room work extremely vivid.”

“Mr. H. Bacon Collamore, chairman of the board of the National Fire Insurance Co., and a trustee of the Watkinson Library, has recently presented the College with close to 3000 volumes of literature, history, and biography. Many of them are first editions of important authors such as Thomas Hardy, Ellen Glasgow, Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway, and Aldous Huxley, to name but a few of the many represented.

“This donation is the largest single gift in several years and provides the Library with many valuable books not previously in the Library as well as duplicate copies of books important in college instruction.”

Trinity in the Press

Trinity College and Trinity alumni have received recognition recently in the following publications:

SPORT magazine (December issue): article on football captain Charley Sticka (reproduced by the office of public relations, available upon request).

NATION (Nov. 12 issue): article by Jacque Hopkins, ’52, “Wisconsin’s Conscience”.

LIFE (December 5 issue): Charley Sticka written up by Frank Leahy as one of the top pro football prospects from small college ranks.

MAN’S KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, by William J. Wolf, ’40; published by Doubleday and Sons, 1955, as part of their Christian Faith Series.

TIME magazine (Nov. 21): cover story on G. Keith Funston, ’34, former President of Trinity; now President of the New York Stock Exchange.


LOOK (April 17 issue): Dr. Jacobs lauded for his role in education in the section, “Look Applauds.”

Concerning Costello

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writes, “These entertaining, stimulating, original, and at times slightly irritating Woodbridge Lectures... give the reader a pretty good idea of what the universe and man look like as seen through the eyes of Costello’s highly sophisticated common sense, with its gift for asking philosophically embarrassing questions at the right places.”

There having been no chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Earlham College while Professor Costello was an undergraduate, on the basis of his high scholastic record there and his outstanding academic abilities and achievements, the Connecticut Beta of the Phi Beta Kappa Society unanimously elected him to membership in 1936. He holds one of the two honorary memberships voted by the Trinity Chapter during the past fifty years. In 1954 the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa made him a lifetime Associate, of which there are only some one hundred and thirty in all. This year he was appointed the Phi Beta Kappa Lecturer for 1956 and was guest of honor at the Annual Dinner of the Chapter in March.

In addition to teaching and scholarship, the College Library has been one of his primary interests. “Constant attention to book selection in his own field of Philosophy has been supplemented by careful scrutiny of the literature of every area for books which would have real value for the college student. This resulted early in the compilation of his ‘List of Books for a College Student’s Reading,’ known the world over as one of the most useful reading guides.” As might-well be expected, Professor Costello still believes that intellectual reading is a most distinctively human enjoyment as well as a priceless source for freely personal enlightenment and education. Unquestionably the best of its kind and almost continuously out of print, the first edition of his “Book List” appeared in 1925 and the fourth edition, rewritten, was published in 1951. He plans to devote the coming year to the arduous labor of thoroughly revising and rewriting it for a new and crucially needed edition.

Seeking some unusually appropriate way of recognizing the unique creativity of Professor Costello as a philosopher, teacher, and bibliographer, it was decided to establish an endowment for the purchase of phi-
Books in Review


Dr. Philip C. F. Bankwitz

The authors to this memorial volume to the Lusitania, whose name was the household word for appalling barbarity in war until 1940, handle surely and effectively their technique of narrating her "last voyage" through the eyes of representative or interesting personages on board. Adolph A. Hoehling, a Trinity graduate of '36, and his wife, Mary, are the authors of this interesting treatise on a tragic event. The best portrayals are those of two unusual but not atypical products of nineteenth century America: Elbert Hubbard, sage, agnostic evangelist and "Roycroft" satchem from East Aurora, New York, and Theodate (nee Effie) Pope, spiritualist extraordinary from Farmington, Connecticut. The successive stages of mounting tension as the great liner nears the submarine-infested waters of St. George's Channel are skillfully presented, while the culminating scenes of the actual torpedoing are the finest in the book. The "watery inferno" of decks tilting at the crazy angle of twenty-five degrees, jammed lifeboats and hysterical passengers is unforgettable complete, even to the incongruities of the perfect swan-dive from the topmost deck by a sports-conscious passenger, and the professional photographer, mad with fear and pleasure at the magnificent "beat" before his eyes, greedily snapping pictures as he slides beneath the waves.

Primarily concerned with narration, the authors do not delve into the surrounding circumstances or the repercussions of the great tragedy. Inevitably, some perspective is lost, and the story from any but the closest angle becomes somewhat blurred. These defects appear first in the somewhat indefinite treatment of the vital question, in view of the repercussions: the Lusitania's legal status which was, even with its cargo of cartridges, copper and brass, that of a bona fide merchant ship. They are further noticeable in the handling of the sailing itself, a venture which can only be described as suicidal, since it took the vessel straight to the world center of a new type of naval war of unparalleled destructiveness, (65 merchant ships in ten weeks), against which there was as yet no effective defense, even in the Royal Navy, then concentrated at the Dardanelles for the Gallipoli operation, had been in home waters. The loss of focus shows up once more when Kapitan-Leutnant Schwieger's very important reasons for torpedoing his "perfect target" without warning, (and thus a technical explanation of the inhumanity of the submarine campaign), are omitted. These were the Lusitania's far superior speed, its ramming power, the Captain's expectation that it would remain afloat for hours, his inability to foresee two fortuitous explosions amidships or the instantaneous listing the ship's famous watertight compartments would produce.

Finally, there is some confusion of sequence in the discussion of the effects of the sinking, with its loss of 197 American lives (from a total of 1198). Only in the American East did "Main Street" turn immediately against Germany. It took another one and one-half years of friction and crisis to bring in Middle and Far Western thoroughfares, and even then, as Kent Cooper's recent book reveals, President Wilson felt it necessary to mount a full-scale propaganda campaign over the Zimmermann Note in February, 1917. The authors are, however, correct in their assessment of the enormous total effect of the Lusitania tragedy—a kind of indirect Pearl Harbor—in the mobilizations of pro-Allied opinion in the United States. With this assessment, we come to the essential truth which the "Lusitania Affair" revealed for the first time. In modern war, which poses a series of terrible choices between the weapons of total frightfulness and total defeat, victory in the last analysis does not depend upon the destructive power of these weapons or military acts, be they underwater torpedoes, lethal gas, pattern bombing, fission-fusion devices, or bacteriological techniques. Victory is the result of the conquest of men's emotions and minds.
"The Rediscovery of the Bible"

Dr. Edmond LaB. Cherbonnier

The predominant characteristic of recent religious literature is symbolized by the number of new titles which refer to the "rediscovery of the Bible." Just when the Bible seemed to be counted out, it has suddenly staged a dramatic comeback. As recently as fifteen years ago, it was widely held that the Biblical foundations of Christianity had been dissolved by the acids of scientific criticism. The Bible was regarded as a collection of ancient tribal legends and pre-scientific superstitions which were neither credible nor relevant to the 20th century; a welter of contradictions which defied reasonable, coherent interpretation; a record of primitive picture-thinking which must give way to rational analysis.

How completely the scene has changed is indicated by the flood of new books by contemporary scholars who find that their predecessors had prematurely sold the Bible short. One of their principal points is that although historical and literary criticism has indeed revised traditional beliefs about the authorship of many parts of the Bible, this scarcely suffices to discredit their truth. In fact, the trend of archaeological evidence is to vindicate the Bible as one of the most reliable sources for ancient history. According to Professor William F. Albright, in his pamphlet The Biblical Period, "There is scarcely a single Biblical historian who has not been impressed by the rapid accumulation of data supporting the substantial historicity of patriarchal tradition."

Besides this renewed confidence in the Bible as an historical document, there is also a new realization that despite certain discrepancies and inconsistencies, it retains a rather remarkable internal unity. Whereas it was once popular to contrast the "teachings of Jesus" with a "religion about Christ" allegedly invented by St. Paul, or to set the vengeful God of the Old Testament against the more tolerant and easy-going God of the New Testament, recent scholarship discovers an indissoluble unity between Gospel and Epistles, between Old and New Testament. A current position is that neither Testament can be understood apart from the other.

Two recent books, According to the Scriptures, by C. H. Dodd, and The Unity of the Bible, by H. H. Rowley, demonstrate that when understood in terms of its own internal categories instead of alien concepts, the Bible maintains an almost uncanny unity of outlook, despite the variety of its authorship over a period of 1000 years.

Perhaps the most significant development, however, is reflected in the recent appearance of such terms as "Biblical Theology" and even "Biblical Metaphysics." These terms reflect the growing realization that the Bible has its own distinctive answers to such general questions as the nature of God, the nature of Man, and the interpretation of human history. Gregory Dix, in his Jew and Greek, emphasizes the contrast between the Biblical answers to these questions and those of ancient Greek philosophy. He argues that originally Christianity was thoroughly Hebraic in outlook and that the early Christian creeds are intended to repudiate, point for point, some of the basic assumptions of classical antiquity. A paper-bound series entitled Studies in Biblical Theology explores these issues in greater detail. Among the leading and most readable contributions thus far are God Who Acts, by G. Ernest Wright, and Man in the Old Testament, by Walter Eichrodt. John W. Bowman in his Prophetic Realism and the Gospel makes an impressive, systematic correlation of the various facets of the Biblical world-view and applies it to the problems of contemporary Christian thinking.

Most surprising of all is the suggestion of some philosophers and theologians that the distinctive worldview which is emerging from the Bible can make an independent contribution to philosophy itself. It is especially significant that the two most important books in this area are written by a French Roman Catholic, Claude Tresmontant. Although the Roman Catholic church is sometimes suspected by Protestants of paying insufficient regard to the Bible, a papal edict in 1950 urged its widespread use and study by all Roman Catholics. As soon as they are translated, Essai sur La Pensee Hebraique et Etudes de Metaphysique Biblique will certainly have a decisive impact on British and American thought. The author argues that at points of difference with other philosophies, the Bible enjoys a definite logical advan-