SOCIAL SCIENCES IN A LIBERAL EDUCATION

—By Clayton C. Kohl—

Seligman, Editor-in-Chief of The Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, in an introductory article to this work entitled "What Are the Social Sciences?", defines these sciences to be those which deal with man as a member of a group. They deal with the common wants of man, those which can be satisfied only by associated or group action. According to Seligman, they fall into three classes: the pure social sciences—politics, economics, history, jurisprudence, anthropology, and psychology; and the sciences with social implications—biology, geography, linguistics, and art. If space permitted, it would be worth while to define each of these individual branches of knowledge; but most people today have studied one or more of these subjects somewhere in their school or college courses and have at least a general idea of their content and purpose.

It is impossible to define a liberal education with any degree of satisfaction. Overman's idea, as given in one of the articles in this series, comes as near satisfying one who seeks the heart of it, perhaps, as any can: namely, a liberal education frees or liberates the individual. It gives him an appreciative understanding of all the major aspects of his environment and enables him to control himself and his environment to a greater or lesser degree on the basis of fact rather than through fear, superstition, prejudice, or trial and error. However difficult it may be, it is nevertheless true that some sound understanding of biology, geography, mathematics, physics, chemistry, language and literature, music, art, and the social studies is necessary in any education that deserves to be called liberal. These studies reveal something of great importance regarding each of the major aspects of man's environment. The social sciences make the phenomena of human living together more intelligible and more amenable to control. They contribute to this end in many ways, only a few of which can be described here.

One of the greatest contributions of the social sciences to a liberal education takes a negative form. When studied with care and for a large purpose, the social sciences remove from the mind many very significant misconceptions and wrong attitudes. Among these are: the doctrine of race superiority or the idea of a 'chosen people'; the doctrine of national isolation; the notion of infallibility in religious and ethical creeds; the sanctity of constitutions and statutes; the idea that human progress is the work of a few heroes; the almost universal tendency to be satisfied with large and general terms like democracy, natural rights, liberty, private property, justice, freedom of competition, free enterprise, just compensation, and the like; the unconscious tendency of most individuals to define liberal education as a study of major subjects (politics, economics, history, jurisprudence, etc.)

An interesting discussion will be given in Toledo tomorrow evening, April 20, in the Civie Auditorium. Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for president in the last election, Philip LaFollette, brother of Robert LaFollette of Senatorial fame, and Governor of Wisconsin, and Bishop Frederick B. Fisher of Ann Arbor, Michigan, will speak on the general subject: "Civilization at the Cross Roads. Whither is it bound?"

Norman Thomas will speak on "The Socialist Doctrine of Planned Economy"; Mr. LaFollette will have as his subject "Law and Government—A Challenge to Progressives"; while Bishop Fisher will deal with "Civilization and Revolt."

These nationally known speakers are brought to Toledo under the auspices of the Saturday Night Open Forum of Toledo, the group that is contributing much to the intellectual life of Toledo and vicinity. It was this organization that brought Lewis Browne to Toledo early last winter.

Anyone from Bowling Green who is interested in hearing the speakers can get in touch with LaSalle and Koch Co., or the Lamson Bros., of Toledo for their tickets. Admission price, exclusive of reserved seats fee, is fifty cents.

FIVE BROTHERS ELECT NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS

Ye Olde Five Brothers met last week and held their annual election of officers. Those elected to pilot the good shippe Five Brothers during the coming year were: John Moore, president; Fred Kendall, vice president; Franklin Keil, treasurer; Floyd Culbertson, secretary; Robert McKee, Loyal Brother; Donald Stevenson, G. H. P.; John Hartman, Chaplain; and Francis Fry, Temple Keeper.

Dates for the annual spring picnics, the biggest event of the social year for the Five Brothers, were chosen and plans for the affair are rapidly being formulated.

One hundred ninety-seven students will be graduated from Bowling Green State College on commencement Day, Monday, June 12, according to the list of names posted on the bulletin board last week.

Of these, nine are receiving degrees from the new arts college which granted its first degree to George Jenkins in July, 1931. This makes the college less than two years of functioning.

Three will be given degrees in both the Education and Arts colleges.

There will be sixty-six given Bachelor of Science in Education degrees.

As usual, the majority of graduates come from the two year teacher training department, and is overwhelmingly made up of girl students. Less than half a dozen men are enrolled in the two year department.

As usual the commencement exercises will be held in the Men's gym the Monday following the close of examinations. The baccalaureate sermon will be delivered the evening of June eleventh.

BEE GEE NEWS

SCHOOL NEWS

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One of the present popular indoor sports is condemnation of Herr Hitler; and we are glad that so many have condemned him for his charlatanism, evident in the persecution of the semi-civilized Germans. We are not calamity critics when we question the state of civilization that will permit a man of the Hitler type to become a “leader” of a modern State. It doesn’t speak well for Germany that her people will submit more or less readily to outrages against a portion of her population. We guess that, as always, the majority of people who are indulging in the anti-semitic activities are those who have not known more than one or two Jews. Usually ignorance breeds distrust. If such actions can be traced to ignorance of fellow men, then the order in which we live is a failure in that far. It would be far better were there some sort of means by which youths could grow up in association of members of other races are not but superficially different from themselves. Of course, that would not be a panacea, but we are at present convinced that it would fail to function in human life. All the great sciences to a liberal education takes a positive form. If a student of them will guard himself against getting lost in detail, he will get a large number of new and great appreciations. He will come to see how long it has taken to build civilization as it is today; the infinite pains and hardships encountered in the long and ever-changing task of culture building; the thrilling story of every science and art from its early beginnings to its present state; the long battle against economic scarcity, human diseases, human greed and hate, and black ignorance; and the tortuous and endless process of developing roads, means of travel and communication, and even the homely arts of acquiring food, clothing, and shelter. However faulty modern civilization may be, it represents perfectly huge gains over that of primitive mankind. Man may often feel that he has made little or no progress, but the truth is that he has been suffering from a restricted view rather than trying to comprehend the whole.

All of the articles in this series so far have emphasized that aspect of a liberal education which requires the functioning of personality in social life. The truth of this position can not be questioned from the intellectual stand-point; but one of the strangest facts about liberally educated people is the fact that a great many of them never get beyond understanding into ac-

eight lesson plans; nor can it be accomplished by listening to the talks and radio; rather, intelligence is needed. In other words, profundity of thought, clarity of expression, insight, understanding, reading, and a social conscience.

**LIBERAL EDUCATION**

(Continued from page 1, col. 2)

duals to take themselves too seriously and to believe that they can achieve success and happiness regardless of the social order in which they live; the taking for granted that one’s folkways, mores, and institutions are right and those of other peoples wrong or stupid; and dozens of like notions held by most individuals unless they reflect seriously upon the matter. The social sciences seriously studied can rid the mind of hundreds of superstitions, “half-truths, untruths, and injured facts.”

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**SOCIAL CALENDAR**

April 19—Women’s League Installation Tea (All College)
April 20—Treble Clef Club Concert.
April 22—Seven Sisters Formal.
April 28—Las Amigas Formal.
April 29—Three Kay Formal.
May 4—Men’s Glee Club Concert.
May 5—Kindergarten-Primary Banquet.
May 6—State Scholarship Contest.
May 10—Band Concert.
May 13—Commercial Contest
Skol Sport Dance (All College)
May 17 or 18—May Day, Women’s League Tea Dance (All College) Seven Sisters.
May 23—Three Kay picnic.
May 24—W. A. A. Banquet.
May 25—Orchestra Concert.
May 26—Delhi Picnic.
May 30—Holiday.
June 1—Annual Concert-Mixed Chorus
Music Department.
June 2—Commoner’s Picnic.
June 11—Baccalaureate Sunday.
June 12—Commencement Day.
**BEA BAREFX ANSWERS**

Dear Bea Barefax:

Can you tell why the president of the Women's League appointed a Seven Sister, Three Kay and a Las Amigas on the May Queen Committee? Was it because she was afraid of some real competition or did it just happen? —A. G. D. I. P.

Answer: You tell me!

College paper provides this much-needed list of practical uses for Cap and Gown.

Cap:
1. With proper motion of the hand, tassel makes fly-swisher.
2. May be used as fishbowl with stationary bottom.
3. Or, as waste-basket or ash-tray.
4. Excellent for balancing books on the head.
5. To make the unintellectual look studious (if this fails, study)

Gown:
1. May be used as pen-wiper in exams.
2. For raincoat; with detachable fur scarf, as evening wrap.
3. As winding sheet.
4. As disguise.
5. To conceal excess poundage. (If this doesn't work, reduce.) —Vassar Miscellany News.

Students at Stanford who are fined for speeding but who plead "no money" are being required to wash the windows and generally clean up the Palo Alto jail and courthouse in lieu of fines. Three hours of hard work pays a five dollar fine.—Wheaton News.

"All women should take a definite interest in politics," said Lady Astor emphatically in a recent interview with a MISCELLANY NEWS reporter. "It is our absolute duty. Women are necessary in public life to put America straight again."—Vassar Miscellany News.

Canoeing from Vorvallis to Portland is anticipated by two sophomores at Oregon State college, as a means of getting home at the end of this quarter. Munro and Dudley Moss, ex '33 in chemical engineering, made the trip at the end of last spring term. The distance from Vorvallis to Portland by river is 118 miles.—Oregon State Barometer.

Leonard Outwaite, ethnologist and author, says that primitive men and races are disappearing faster than scientists can study them and that, unless organized plans are set in motion at once, many chapters in the history of mankind will forever remain unwritten.

Red Witters: (Translating in German class) "I fell to the ground humbly and clasped her by the knees—", and that's far as I got, Professor Neilson.
At Wittenberg University three blonde co-eds debated with three dark haired girls from the institution on the subject that brunettes were more intelligent than blondes. The brunettes won, proving their point.

Wellesley girls have decided not to speak to one another when meeting on the campus. They say that greeting the same person several times a day is tiring.

It seems funny that in these times a scholarship which pays over six hundred dollars should go begging for someone to use it. But such is the case up at Yale, and no one has held it since 1919; in fact no one has ever applied for it. The catch is that the applicant must be christened Leavenworth.—Swarthmore Phoenix.

Prof. Ogg: Mr. Roberts, how do you get the cubic contents of a barrel?
D. Wallace: I don't know, I'm not a Five Brother.

Otis: "Scientific laws are after all conjecture and hypothesis rather than settled truth. The man who says he is absolutely certain of anything is a consummate fool!"
Kendall: "Are you sure of that, Professor?"
Otis: "I am absolutely certain of it!"

Romeo and Juliet
'Twas in the 'Coffee Shop' they met.
'Twas there poor Romeo fell in debt,
For Romeod what Juliet.

Wanted—A strong, responsible woman-lover to read the meter in the 'Skiol' house.
We haven't made a nickel from them this year.—The Gas Company.

Maude Sharp: Miss Walker, where have you been all evening?
Mary Liz: Just shooting craps in the basement of Williams Hall.
Maude: This thing must stop. Those little things have as much right to live as you have.

A bachelor is a man who doesn't make the same mistake once.
A pedestrian is a man whose wife has the car.
A parking place is a hole between two cars usually found on the opposite side of the street from which you are.

Overheard at Freddies:
Champion: Pie me, Fella.
Hobart: Hamburger me.
Ludd: Coffee me.
M. Sheets: Er-a, I'll have a glass of milk.

Mr. Zilch: What is your occupation?
Mumaw: I paint men and women.
Zilch: Are you a portrait painter?
Mum: No, I paint "Men' on one door and "Women" on another.

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"Sherman, The Fighting Prophet" by Lloyd Lewis and "Andrew Jackson" by Marquis James are two new works which demonstrate the present tendency in literature away from the fictionalized type of biography, such as the late Lytton Strachey, and more accurately rendered. Whether or not it is a healthful and wholesome step cannot now be considered; it is enough to note that the older form is reasserting itself, yet not as the indescribable "memoir" of other years. The two books in consideration are documented. No statement is made for which chapter and verse cannot be cited, yet not all is told. Lewis and James both have the knack of selection: enough is left to the imagination to create almost the same impression as the fictionalized biography. Yet we do not doubt but that this latest type requires more artistry than does the Strachey biographies (or more correctly portraits).

Both books are long and as thorough as one could expect from approximately five hundred pages. And they are well written, in that the reader is seldom conscious, as in reading such writers as Lion Feuchtwanger, of the style.

Readers of biographies will have an interesting time in the next few years watching the struggles between fictionalized and more nearly factual written lives. Aside from the matter of artistry, that type will live which will present the more nearly true picture (not factual, mind) of the subjects dealt with. And only the future can possibly determine that reality.

"ANN VICKERS"

Sinclair Lewis makes his annual bow to the reading public (that fickle creature!) this year with his life of a reformed named Ann Vickers. It is the life of a woman from her early days in Illinois until her more than forty years in New York City. Like all (or nearly all Lewis characters, Ann is a questioner, hardly sincere in many utterances or acts. But Lewis in this work is different from the Lewis of former days in that he commits the sin of falling in love with his heroine about the middle of the book. From this point, she is idealized and the novel loses power in proportion to the idealization.

Better novels have been written by Lewis. One cannot but feel that herein, the author missed an opportunity to write his best book, better even than "Main Street' or "Babbitt". However, there are many fine passages and scenes and a little intelligent insight into motivating forces of men. The criticism of penal life is particularly fine. These passages, together with a few scattered excellent scenes wherein Lewis rises to real heights, amply justify anyone who would read the book.

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CHAPEL NEWS

Chapel yesterday saw the English department in action with a variety of readings and other literary devices.

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COMMONERS NOTES

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

Speaking of pledge duties reminds me.

The pledges were assigned the Spring duty of washing the windows of the House. H. B. says to be sure they wash the one fronting Summit street upstairs at the rear.

Sid Baron drove to New York for his vacation, an in returning, stripped gears and so had to walk the rest of the way. Are his feet red!

Courtney Wilcox, erstwhile Commoner chairmainet, has returned to the house for a short visit. He did forget the clarinet, however. Moes says, "Damn good!"

Al Bloom has been kidding Wohlers about manure-spreaders; though to our certain knowledge, he had never seen one. Wohlers, a man of science, believes in practical demonstration, and therefore brought back several pictures, beautifully colored in red and yellows, one of which he pinned up on Al's wall. Only in doing so, he moved Al's Senior picture so that now it is tacked on behind. What did Al say? "Well fellahs, I see George Hanan got one, too."

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DELHI NOTES

Delhi's are looking forward to May 28 when the annual spring picnic shall take place probably along the scenic banks of the Old Maumee.

About half-hundred fraternity men and guests enjoyed cards, smokes, and conversation at the Smoker given at the house Wednesday, April 12.

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