

March 2, 1938

R-What of interest has been happening at the library?

M-Many things. 216 new borrowers signed application cards the past month which means that the people of Eau Claire are using the resources which their taxes provide for them.

R-Have you any items of special interest to tell us today?

M-Seems like so many interesting things happen every day that it's hard to select outstanding things. A few days ago the magazines came back from the bindery. Many of the periodicals which are indexed in Readers' Guide must be kept for permanent reference so they are bound into volumes every six months or so depending on their frequency. We bind such periodicals as Atlantic, Harpers, Scribners, Scientific American etv. They always look so interesting when they are bound. You'd be surprised how bookish magazines look after they have been bound into volumes.

R-Do they circulate as books after they are bound?

M-No, they are kept as part of our permanent reference file.

R- What books are most popular right now?

M-Practically every type of information book is in constant demand.

Northwest passage-Kenneth Roberts

Rains came-Louis Bromfield

Nile-Emil Ludwig

Alluring Wisconsin-Fred Holmes

You can't take it with you-Hart and Kaufman

Japan over Asia-William Chamberlin

R- In other words people are reading this winter.

M-Yes, and such good books, too. We have requests for material on many subjects. So many people have asked for books on raising fur-bearing animals that we have subscribed for ~~two~~ ^{two} new magazines on this subject. American fur breeder, ^{and} Hunter, trapper, trader. Many people are asking for books on the care and training of dogs.

Your library staff in co-operation with others is helping to conduct a

survey of reference questions which have been asked about which there is little popular information. The A.L.A. hopes to use this information to get publishers to have books written on these subjects.

R-Will you tell us more about this project at some later date?

M-I shall be glad to do so, but today we are going to hear about some seasonal reading which the library arranges every year.

It was Bryant who said,

"The stormy March has come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the rustling of the blast
That through the snowy valley flies."

R-We are all glad to see March come for spring arrives. According to the old saying if March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb.

M-March 21 does mark the beginning of spring for the vernal equinox falls on that day. The equinox in astronomy is the time when the sun passes across the equator in one of the equinoct^{ial}~~ual~~ points, that is where the ~~the~~ ^{the} ecliptic or sun's rays cross the celestial equator. This occurs twice yearly in the sun's apparent journey round the earth. On March 21 is the vernal equinox and on Sept. 22 autumn^{al}~~al~~ equinox. At these times the day and night is equal all over the world.

Today marks the beginning of the lenten season in chirtian churches.

Every year the library staff arranges a shelf for lenten reading. This year they are suggesting that people plan for reading time during this lenten season. Our reading shelf this year is designed for personal help and inspiration. There are old and new books on personal devotions which will be helpful to many people. Evelyn Underhill in her book *The Spiritual living* life considers the spiritual life as the heart of all religion and therefore of vital concern to ordinary men and women.

The faith we live by by Earl L. Douglass expresses the faith of the church as expressed in the Apostl~~ess~~ Creed.

Do you remember Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch? Alice Hegan Rice has

written a little book of devotions called My Pillow book. She takes her title from an old negro spiritual.

"What are you going to do
When the world is on fire,
Don't you want God's bosom
To be your pillow."

Mrs. Rice in this little book has gathered ideas from the richest of the devotional literature of the ages.

William L. Sperry discusses the problem of religion and morals in the modern home in his book, What you owe your child. We recommend this book to every modern parent.

Successful Christian living is the latest volume of sermons on Christianity today by Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of Riverside Church in New York City. It again has an inspiring message.

We hear much today about the Oxford Group. Two new books explaining this are What is the Oxford Group by the layman with a notebook and When man listens by Cecil Rose.

For those who like poetry and will choose it for their Lenten inspirational reading we suggest several collections of poetry.

Christ in the poetry of today is an anthology of American verse compiled by Elvira Slack.

Poems for enjoyment by Elias Lieberman

Poetry an interpretation of life, edited by E. E. Clarke

Quotable poems, an anthology of modern verse compiled by Thomas Clark and Esther Gillespie was compiled to bring together poetry that is quotable, that has deep spiritual qualities, that has modern tone, that is in touch with human needs. Mr. C. is going to read from this collection.

Sanctuary

Let us put by some hour of every day
 For holy things! - whether it be when dawn
 Peers through the window pane, or when the noon
 Flames, like a burnished topaz, in the vault,
 Or when the thrush pours in the ear of eve
 Its plaintive monody; some little hour
 Wherin to hold rapt converse with the soul,
 From sordidness and self a sanctuary,
 Swept by the winnowing of unseen wings,
 And touched by the White Light Ineffable!

Clinton Scollard

About this collection of poems might be said the following

The Book

Softly I closed the book as in a dream
 And let its echoes linger to redeem
 Silence with music, darkness with its gleam.
 That day I worked no more. I could not bring
 My hands to toil, my thoughts to trafficking.
 A new light shone on every common thing.
 Celestial glories flamed before my gaze.
 That day I worked no more. But to God's praise,
 I shall work better all my other days.

Winfred Ernest Garrison

M-If one wishes Lenten inspiration from great paintings may we suggest
 The Angelus painted by Jean Francois Millet, the peasant painter of France.

The day is done. The low descending sun floods the fields with a glowing
 light. In the distant tower the church bell sounds the vesper hour. Two
 peasants stand with bowed heads repeating the evening prayer. The figure
 of the peasant woman makes a silhouette against the evening sky. The light
 color of her apron catches the fading glow of the sky and accents her figure.

Opposite, with head bowed, and hat in hand, stands her companion. He stands with his back to the light. This makes his figure a silhouette relieved against the light sky and field. His clothes are of coarse material and dark in color. Only a glimpse of a light shirt is seen, repeating the light in the woman's apron. Nearby, the long handle of the fork placed upright in the ground, repeats the line of the two figures. The wheelbarrow with its load, and the basket full to the brim, rest beside the furrow. These workers with their wheelbarrow and basket, will soon begin the long walk over the field to the village, but now first in the sacred hush of the Angelus hour, they pause and bow in prayer. Millet once said that he wanted to make everyone hear the deep tones of the Angelus bell. As one enters into the mood of the artist he, too, may hear the deep tones of the ~~Angelus~~ *Ave Maria*

Music* Angelus - Massenet

Ave Maria - Schubert

Evening bells- Abt.

Ave Maria
Ave Maria
e'a

M-For younger readers there are many worthwhile books in the Children's department.

The life of our Lord was written by Charles Dickens for his children during the years 1846-1849 and was first published in 1934. During his lifetime he refused to permit publication because he felt it was a personal letter to his own children in answer to their questions about religion and faith. For 85 years the manuscript was sacredly guarded as a precious family secret. It was not to be published until after the death of all of Dicken's children and with the death of Sir Henry Dickens in Dec. 1933 his widow decided to give it to the world.

Junior Bible: an American translation edited by Edgar J. Goodspeed gathers up the parts of the Bible that are of most interest to children from 10-15, in the hope that enjoying them they may develop a fondness for the Bible which they may never lose.

Maud and Miska Petersham, who do such lovely illustrations for children, spent several months in Palestine before they illustrated their lovely Christ Child book for children. They have interpreted through pictures the spirit of the Holy Land which was the background of the childhood of Jesus.

For all the friends of this program who do not have access to other Lenten reading may we leave this thought:

"We search the world for truth

To find that all the sages said

Is in the Book our Mothers read." The Bible is still the world's best seller.

Often we wish to know the story that inspired some great poem, painting, or song. Carl Price has gathered together one hundred and one hymn stories of the best hymn stories available and presented them in popular form.

Hymn-

Your library staff wishes to leave this as our lenten thought:

"May we help to brighten for others the path of life, to make the crooked straight and the rough places plain, and to serve our generation wisely."

We believe in books. We believe in people.
We believe in bringing the people and the books together
We believe in good service when the people come.
Because it was just 51 years ago this month that the law was passed which authorized the issuance of adhesive postage stamps such as we know and use we have chosen to speak today about United States postage stamps. Before the adoption of stamps, letters were mailed by hand or "put" by means of hand stamps or pen and ink. By this method postage was very uncertain. The prepayment of postage by means of adhesive stamps was made obligatory by law effective July 1, 1846.