**HENRY SEIDEL CANBY ON “JUDGING BOOKS”**

“Judging Books” was the subject of a very interesting talk given by Mr. Henry Seidel Canby, Tuesday afternoon at the third meeting in the Convocation series. Mr. Canby, who has written a number of books on literary criticism, is the editor of The Saturday Review of Literature.

Before Mr. Canby presented any of his rules for the critic, he pointed out clearly the job of the critic is not an easy one. One must be guided by certain rules, yet one must not criticize blindly according to these rigid principles. Criticism is a mixture of philosophy and human experience, and some of the best judges are not, in the light of his principles, he will no longer apply the rules to the art, but will change them slightly to fit the principles. It is because of this practice that the beauty of Thomas Hardy’s writings was condemned for so long a time.

Criticism is a real science according to Mr. Canby, but in this work there is no certain formula or set principle. The critic must, first of all, judge with the ease of perspective; he must not let his personal likes and dislikes interfere with a work of a period gone by.

The critic must not judge a new book by the rules of form as applied to old writings. He must not, Mr. Canby emphatically stated, consider only the aesthetic values of literature, neglecting all other values, the intellectual, philosophical and psychological values. And lastly, the critic must not judge simply according to his own personal tastes.

Mr. Canby then continued in his interesting manner to give a few constructions in this critic, and applying these rules, he gave a brief criticism of two well-known recent plays, Mourning Becomes Electra, Willa Cather’s play, and Follow the American Beauty.

Mr. Canby then continued in his talk on criticism. He said that before one can really judge a book one must know the book. He said that before one can really judge a few “don’ts” for the critic.

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A SHELF OF POETRY


The title poem is remarkably full of imagination, to our mind one of the best things Aiken has done... On the whole this volume is of the first order that Aiken's later work has assumed.—Saturday Review of Literature.


To-day, his eighty-fifth birthday, the Poet Laureate gives us what we believe to be the greatest poem he has written. In verse which unifying discipline has moulded to a new freedom he tells us that life is happiness, and reason with us why it must be so, and, better still, invite us to share with him the breath of a happiness that is unspeakable.—Tires (London) Library Supplement.


Collected Poems shows and shows clearly that Frost has written as fine poetry as any living American and that the proportion of first-rate poetry to the whole is greater than that in the work of any other contemporary. This last point is important not because quantity matters, but because as many American poets, after a brief productive period, have slipped into mediocrity.—New Republic.


In this unique and stirring book, Mr. Macmillan, writing the biography of one ship, re-creates the days of sailing vessels. The building of the Wanderer and the history of her voyages, told in prose is interspersed with verses narrating two of her most disastrous experiences. Illustrated with pictures of old ships.—Booklist.


Edna St. Vincent Millay is one of the few poets in our whole tradition who handles the sonnet with mastery. She knows not only its surface laws, but she knows—because she is exceedingly intelligent in the pursuit of her craft—all the subtleties of the form as well.—Books.

Noyes, Last Yogga. N. Y., Stokan, 1930.

The third and concluding volume in Mr. Noyes' trilogy in praise of the great work scientists have done. The present poem depicts a great linen of sea, on which an operation, line of sea, is directed over the radio by a famous surgeon on another transatlantic liner. The poem also contains an imaginary debate between Pasteur and Dewar.—Book Brave New World.


The poem is a marvellous achievement of thought, wherein the motive of two men, one the donor the other the recipient of evil, are presented as an episode of human beings facing their spiritual opportunities. The execution is sustained in flexible and fluent verse, which permits the abstractions of the theme, yet does not lack occasional flashes of aphoristic condemnation.—Springfield Republican.

The average person doesn’t select the newspaper he reads as naturally as he does his friends.

He gravitates simply and naturally to his kind of people. Yet sometimes he is baffled by a chain of habit to a newspaper with which he isn’t really congenial at all.

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Do you choose your newspaper
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York Herald Tribune is a friend. A faithful friend, because it comes to call every day, rain or shine. A worthwhile friend because it is honest and accurate and truly informing. A delightful friend because it has the divine gift of laughter and a sense of humor that reveals the true flavor and meaning of events.

The Herald Tribune is looking for new friends—for more of its kind of people. Try reading it for just one week. We think that at the end of this time you will find that you have found your newspaper.
At last the Seniors have learned
that when it comes to pictures the
host shall eventually be seen. It took
four years to realize our ambition, but
in the end we succeeded. So cheer up.
Freshmen, time is bound to tell.

With publicity what it is the press
has been sniping us in all sorts of
ways. The result is that we have
jumped horses when we never even
knew they were over stone walls.

Now that we know all about the life
habits of eagles, it gives the Seniors
something to do when we wear caps
and gowns, mostly the gowns.

We commended the drum accompan-
iment to this set.

We wonder how many people felt
qualified to attend the Vesper service
"For All Saints"?

We think winter has actually
come our way. Anyhow people are
enthusiastically pulling out the old
toos.

We understand that Wellesley is
saddled by our knitting. Domesticity
has staged a comeback, you know.

We heard a "major" remark the
other day that you only need nine on
a hockey team. Oh my! Plea for
shame! Tut and double tut!

The more we attend the lectures in
the gym, the more we see the need
for upholstered chairs.

At that we found a person who
brought a pillow to a long session in
the Life. Perhaps she was a natural
dancer or a Novel student.

The more the Seniors study the
employment situation, the more it looks
as though our only future is selling
Christmas cards and they are as-
seasonal.

How and a thing is progress. After
years of patient service, the gym ice
cover is to be retired and a broad
new electrically operated one is to
take its place. And while we are on
the subject there is the new box for
messages to the department, all alp-
phabetical and everything.

All the flies aren't dead yet. No, by
gosh, there are five of them left.

On October 29, the first meeting of
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was held at Branford House. The topic
was "The Place of Woman in the
World," and Marion Agnew '23, read an article
from the magazine entitled "Woman's Sphere"
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