

# Chicagoans Create Best Race Literature Of 1938

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 — A retrospective review of the literature of the Race for 1938, written by Dr. Alain Locke of Howard university, is a feature of the January issue of Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life.

In this article Dr. Locke lists and criticizes all the significant fiction, poetry, and drama produced by Race writers during the past year, as well as that part of the output of white writers that deals with Race life.

In the field of fiction, Dr. Locke finds Richard Wright's "Uncle Tom's Children," and Mercedes Gilbert's "Aunt Sara's Wooden God," among the best works. Wright is a Chicagoan. Don Tracy's "How Sleeps the Beast," and Julian Meade's "The Back Door" are rated highest among the works of white writers.

In poetry, the Howard professor calls "Chicago Skyscrapers," by Frank Marshall Davis, "the master poem of the year in a not too golden or plentiful poetic harvest;" and hails the discovery of several new poets by "Negro Voices," an anthology edited by Beatrice Murphy. Davis, ANP writer, is also a Chicagoan.

Race drama, Dr. Locke admits, has made notable strides during the past year. The Harlem Suitcase theatre's production of Langston Hughes' "Don't You Want to be Free?", he says, "has vindicated the possibilities of a new dramatic approach."

This experimental theatre "is to be watched closely, because a people's theatre with an intimate reaction of the audience to materials familiar to it is one of the sound new ideas of a cultural program that in some of the arts, drama particularly, has stalled unnecessarily."

Dr. Locke will write a second article for the February issue of

Opportunity, criticizing the biographical, historical, and sociological works about Race life in America and Africa issued during 1938.