

# THE BOOKSHELF

[The Bookshelf is for the benefit of those of our readers who are interested in things literary. If you are a book lover and like the idea of a literary club that meets through the Bookshelf column, you are welcome. You are urged to write in to this department any comments on current or past literature that you have in mind. If you see questions in this column you care to answer, by all means do so. If you have questions to ask pertaining to prose, poetry or fiction in modern or ancient literature, send them in. Address communications to Editor of Bookshelf, Chicago Defender.]

## "Harlem"

Harlem, a forum of life, is a new independent monthly magazine, the initial issue of which will appear during the first week of November. This issue will contain a number of articles, stories, poems and book reviews by many well-known and prominent writers.

Walter White, assistant secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. and author of two novels, "The Fire in the Flint" and "Flight," contributes an article entitled "For Whom Shall the Negro Vote?" in which he discusses the attitude of both of the old parties toward us. Mr. White suggests that it is far better that we marshal our vote for local purposes than to be concerned immediately with the presidential election. He also pleads that we cease being a slovenly or easily corrupted voter.

In the same issue, Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard university and editor of the New Negro, writes on "Art or Propaganda?" giving voice to the hope that through art our Race will find a new means of combating Race prejudice and his own inferiority complex. Also in this issue there will be a short story by Langston Hughes, author of "The Weary Blues" and "Fine Clothes to the Jew"; a pen portrait of a hard-boiled amusing Colored top sergeant, named Woolf, by George S. Schuyler; a resume of "the breaks," which have caused certain well-known Colored actors rise to the top of their profession, by Theophilus Lewis, and other essays, short stories and poems.

Harlem is to be without any prejudice or specific policies, dedicated to the idea of giving expression to anyone who has something to say as long as they say it with some degree of literary merit. It will cater to no especial coterie nor will its contributors be confined to Race writers alone. Harlem will be an endeavor on the part of its editors to provide the Race with a first-class literary magazine which will enable them to know what is going on in the world of thought, awaken their interest in things not necessarily connected with the Race and bring them fresh viewpoints on old problems.

The new magazine will be edited by Wallace Thurman, who is the author of "The Blacker the Berry," a novel to be published this winter by Macaulay and the coauthor of the play, "Black Belt," to be produced in New York this season. Mr. Thurman is also well known as a contributor to the various literary magazines and has been connected in the past with the editorial staffs of the Messenger and the World Tomorrow. Aaron Douglas, whose distinctive work is known throughout the country and who also did the illustrations for "God's Trombones" by James Weldon Johnson, is to be the art editor.

Harlem will be published by the

H. K. Parker Publishing company, with offices at 2376 Seventh Ave., New York city, and will sell for 25 cents per copy.

## LITERARY NOTES

Prof. Michael Kraus of the New York university says that Trader Horn's use of the word "convivial" as a noun is in keeping with the English traditional usage. So far back as 1750 there was a "Convivial club" in New York city, embracing in its membership the eminent professional men of the community. On his trip through the city Benjamin Franklin participated in the conviviality.

Samuel Chotznoff, music critic of the New York World, is now in Lake Placid putting the finishing touches to "Erolca, the Life of Beethoven," which will be published shortly by Simon & Schuster.

"Every boy and every gal that's born into this world alive is either a Savoyard or else a little unfortunate," says Isaac Goldberg, the author of "The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan," which will be released on Oct. 12 by Simon & Schuster. Goldberg is also the biographer of Havlock Ellis, George Jean Nathan and H. L. Mencken.

It took a Chicago lad, J. P. McEvoy, to tell the truth about Broadway, announces the Inner Sanctum of Simon & Schuster in reminding the world of the sensational best seller performance of "Show Girl." Furthermore, it remained for a pair of Philadelphia lads, Edward Longstreth and Leonard T. Holton, to chronicle the diversions and delights of the illuminati of New York in "What'll We Do Now?" which is described by the publishers as giving first aid until the milkman comes.

"Books like Mr. McEvoy's are what make girls leave home," says Miss Jean Crittenden, member of the east of the Grand Street Follies, who has read "Show Girl" and submitted a review of it to the Inner Sanctum of Simon & Schuster. Other ladies of the ensemble added critical comments. "'Show Girl,'" says Lily Lubell, "is to American literature what the machine gun is to Chicago."

Florenz Ziegfeld, who has produced countless revues glorifying the American girl, was finally impelled by the publication of J. P. McEvoy's saga of Dixie Dugan to produce his first literary review, and for no less an editor than Dr. Henry Seidel Canby. Mr. Ziegfeld's critique of "Show Girl" in the Saturday Review of Literature disclosed the fact that this new best seller published by Simon & Schuster is now one of his favorite bedside books, where it is a neighbor of his other favorite volumes on the stage, including "Maurice Guest," by Henry Handel Richardson; "Evelyn Innes," "Sister Teresa" and "A Mummer's Wife," all by George Moore, and "A Mummer's Tale," by Anatole France.