Columbia University increases its total resources during 1931 by $28,000,000.

University of Oklahoma's resources during the year were reduced more than ten per cent.

Both universities should give the same grade of education.

You can appreciate the problem confronting President Bizzell when you stop to analyze.

Is Oklahoma in the illiterate belt?

Oklahoma ranks sixteenth from the bottom in the list of states in the total per cent of book sales;

Oklahoma has only four leading bookstores and eleven other book outlets;

Out of twenty two urban centers with a population ranging from five to ten thousand, seventeen are without book outlets; six out of twelve urban centers with a population ranging from ten to twenty five thousand are without book outlets; fifty eight of Oklahoma's seventy seven countries have no bookstores or book outlets, and seventy of these countries are listed as having no "A" store.

There are 723 retail stores to every book outlet in Oklahoma.

These statistics are increasing and revealing. Oklahoma is by no means the worst state in the union in the matter of bookselling. But we have a great distance to go before we can reach the status of the northern states. It is a sad commentary on the entire situation that a general book store cannot exist in Norman. You would expect that in the state's educational center you would find a well patronized book store. Efforts to get students to read—and faculty members, too, apparently—have thus far met with little success.

I think we are improving. The new library of the university is an inducement to read. The University Press gradually will make a mark among students. Curiously enough, very few University Press books are sold to alumni. Books are the fundamental basis of tolerant education. Book reading citizens are usually intelligent citizens.

The task facing the university should be clear. The textbook and the lecture are not the end of intellectual progress for the student. They are the first milestone. Books are the continuing milestones—

The Sooner Magazine

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BELLES LETTRES AND BELL RINGERS

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Jack Fischer, '32 journ., of Amarillo, Texas, is the editor of The Oklahoma Daily, Captain Jerome Waters is a former student of the University of Oklahoma in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The publication by the University of Oklahoma Press during January of the first volume of its projected series on the Civilization of the American Indian marks another forward step of the university. Dr A. B. Thomas's Forgotten Frontiers is the initial volume of the series. Eventually it is hoped that the volumes comprising the series will give a picture of Indian civilization in its original purity, divorced from the malformations introduced by the land-hungry white man.