made distinctly a field artillery unit. Prior to that time, it was both infantry and artillery. During that same year, also, Major Parker, the present head of the department came here. Having been one of the class that entered the university that year, it has been my fortune to see his work from the day he came until the present time. In 1927 there were 1180 students in the first course, and 143 in the advance. Today the score stands 1325 and 282. Along with this many material improvements have been made throughout the department. Around the armory one unconsciously obtains a sense of completeness and order. This is much more a fact today than it was four years ago. The saddle room and other buildings in the stable area are supplied with gas and heat instead of coal. An additional battery of 75mm guns has been added making four complete batteries of French 75's here. Two new polo fields have been built. Over three thousand dollars have been spent for one hundred beautiful band uniforms. The band has also an idea of the material progress which the department has made.

Besides our military instruction, we have two annual military balls and a sponsor's day program. We are generally called upon to furnish the outstanding features of parades and other activities. As a result this unit has become an integral and outstanding part of the school.

What has been the cause of this development? There can be but one answer: Namely, the type of instructors the department has been fortunate enough to obtain plus the keen executive ability of Major Parker who, with his staff has stood square shouldered behind every movement that the university has made.

In the advanced course, which is optional, may be found the captain and the outstanding football players of the school, three out of four of the men of the junior class who were Phi Beta Kappas, the president of the student council, the president of the engineer's club, and in general, all of the men who are the most promising in their various fields of endeavor. This fact, alone, seems to indicate the respect that is shown for Major Parker's work. Although he will leave here to occupy a better position next year his departure will be regretted by thousands of students and citizens, but his work will be remembered, in Oklahoma as long as this state appreciates the conscientious efforts of an able man. He has given a splendid unit to us and we all, I believe, feel justly proud of it.

Kathryn Hayden Salter, wife of Professor Jack Salter, formerly with the school of citizenship and public affairs and now of the University of Wisconsin faculty, is the author of a sonnet appearing in the April issue of the Ladies Home Journal, entitled "Prairie."

An old song


It is always difficult to write of the things which are familiar. For this reason it is hard for me, and I believe would be for others who have spent their childhood in Oklahoma, to write of Lynn Riggs' latest play, Green Grow the Lilacs.

Mr. Riggs writes in his preface that the play might have been subtitled An Old Song and as such it appeals to me. Many ancient memories and forlorn images are reawakened by the lovely familiar sayings and singings of Aunt Eller and Laurey, Curly and the pedler, and of the characters of their community. Aunt Eller in particular voices a language which is vigorous and graphic, which incorporates many of the wise sayings which we have heard in our youth.

The play is dated 1900 and the setting is an Indian Territory ranch near Claremore. It is developed in six scenes rather than the conventional three acts. Mr. Riggs explains this mechanism in his preface.

"I threw away the conventions of ordinary theatricality and tried to exhibit luminously, in the simplest of stories, a wide area of mood and feeling. I thought of the first three scenes as 'the characters' and the last three as 'the play.' After the people are known I let them go ahead acting out their simple talk--which might have been the substance of an ancient song."

The story is a simple one of young love and old wisdom and dark villainy. Laurey Williams who lives with her Aunt Eller Murray on a ranch is wooed by Curly McClain, a cowboy. Aunt Eller promotes the match while her overseer, Jeeter Fry, craves Laurey for himself and stoops to evil deeds to destroy his rival.

It is simple enough as a story goes but the lyric imagery of Mr. Riggs' prose, the universality of his sympathies and adoration for beauty, the free unrestrained telling of his tale, lift it to the heights of great drama.

The declared intent of the author was "solely to recapture in a kind of nostalgic glow (but in dramatic dialogue more than in song) the great range of mood which characterized the old folk songs and ballads I used to hear in my Oklahoma childhood—their quaintness, their sadness, their robustness, their simplicity, their hearty or bawdy humor, their sentimentalities, their melodrama, their touching sweetness."

This goal I believe he has reached with a degree of success seldom attained by a pioneer in drama. For that he is a pioneer is evidenced by his play and that his pioneering has succeeded is proved by the notices which followed its production. Many were the critics who found fault but even the most begrudging among them conceded that Oklahoma's Lynn Riggs had introduced a new note into the American theatre which will probably be a cornerstone upon which our next decade of theatrical interpretation will be based.

B. K. ▲

Oil Production


Much has been written lately on the overproduction of petroleum and its effects but little has been said about the influence of overproduction on the refining of petroleum or the influence of refining on overproduction. This booklet by Professor Petty meets this need by filling the gap. It is a valuable contribution to the literature on the economics of petroleum.

Professor Petty states that the overexpansion in petroleum refining operations is both a cause and an effect of overproduction of crude oil. He gives evidence of excess refinery capacity and shows the necessity for some excess but goes further to show that a good part of the present excess is wasteful. The reasons for overexpansion he attributes as follows: the rapid growth of industries dependent upon the oil industry, the innate characteristics of oil finding and producing operations with recurring periods of oil shortage and oil surplus, and the stress put upon the petroleum industry in its task of furnishing war-time needs.

The growing demand for petroleum products also stimulated the yield rates especially for gasoline. The percentage yield of gasoline from crude oil in the United States increased from 26.1 per cent in 1918 to forty-four per cent in 1929. Al-
though the yield had increased during the past decade and the refinery capacity had increased, the total number of refineries in the United States in 1930 was only eight in excess of the total number in 1921. The average capacity of the plant had increased more than 100 per cent during the same period of time.

The factors taken into consideration in the location of a manufacturing plant are: proximity to raw materials, an available supply of labor, accessibility to market and an adequate supply of reasonably priced power. In the earlier days proximity to raw materials was the determining factor in refining location. However, in recent years the author points out that accessibility to market has been the determining factor. The shifting in location was due to changes in transportation costs and methods. The development of gasoline pipelines the author thinks will prove to be an offset to poor refinery location. The gasoline pipeline will reduce transportation costs on gasoline and to that extent render refineries already located distant to consuming markets more effective in competition with those located in market territories.

Leonard Logan, '14

The Missouri questionnaire

Professor Jerome Dowd, professor of sociology and internationally known author, disagrees with the report of the American Association of University Professors on the sex questionnaire at the University of Missouri in an article in School and Society for March 7.

I think that the administration of the University of Missouri was entirely justified in interfering with the circulation of the questionnaire. The avowed object of the questionnaire was to get at the causes of the "wide-spread dissatisfaction with the prevailing institution of marriage."

Now, I think that many young people reading this questionnaire would get the idea that the institution of marriage was breaking down, and that some wise heads were casting about to find some kind of substitute. I would consider such an impression very misleading and very demoralizing. A sociology department, above all, should not lend its influence to the dissemination of a social untruth.

In Soviet Russia, I understand, that since the revolution, there has been a good deal of promiscuous pairing of the sexes without the formal institution of marriage, but I have not heard of the "wide-spread dissatisfaction with the prevailing institution of marriage" in my neighboring state, Missouri. So far as Oklahoma is concerned, I have some first-hand information. I am sure, in spite of the known hospitality of this state to social novelties, that marriage is still very popular among the people, and that, "if at first they don't succeed, they try, try again."

The questionnaire was the best book on petroleum economics yet issued.

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An oil triumvirate

A triumvirate of the petroleum industry "to follow the precedent established by organized baseball" to "dictate where, when and how much oil should be produced," according to the New York Journal of Commerce, was advocated by Dr. Leonard M. Logan, '14 arts-sc., of the college of business administration in an address to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers February 19 at New York City. It was proposed "as a possible remedial measure for unstable conditions in the oil industry."

Dr. Logan "suggests that the dictatorship might have two members appointed by petroleum organizations and the third by the president of the United States."

Introducing Doctor Logan, Joseph E. Pogue, nationally known petroleum engineer, declared that the Sooner professor's book Stabilization of the Petroleum Industry was the best book on petroleum economics yet issued.

Future of physics

The Future of Physics is the title of a booklet by Dr. Homer Levi Dodge, dean of the graduate school, just published by the University of Iowa as a study. Doctor Dodge believes in a broader attitude towards the field of physics that than entertained by most of the pure physicists today.

Comparative embryology


Prose readings

Readings in English Prose is the title of a book to be published in June by Doubleday, Doran & Co., the authors being Professor A. R. Ramey and Mrs Charles M. Perry (Winifred Johnston), '23 arts-sc., contributing editor of The Sooner Magazine.

Michigan's president

Dr. Charles M. Perry, head of the philosophy department of the university, is the author of Henry Philip Tappan, Philosopher and University President, which will be published by the University of Michigan about July 1. The book deals with the philosophy and letters of Michigan's great president.