

MUSIC ★ ★ ★ DRAMA ★ ★ ★ BOOKS ★ ★ ★ THE ARTS



Sunday Journal and Star.

Reviewer describes... LeRossignol's 'The Habitant Merchant' as charming story

By Kathryn Park.

"The Habitant Merchant," a new book by J. E. LeRossignol, dean of bizad college, is a series of charming stories depicting the life of the French-Canadians, as it was lived and is now.

Jovite Laberge, the gruff but kindly habitant-merchant, in the book, tells stories of his relatives to Eduard Morceau, a commercial traveler. According to Monsieur Laberge, "habitants" are "droves of cultivators."

Typical of the French-Canadian merchant, Laberge offers special discounts to all of his relatives and friends. But as a change gradually comes in from the larger towns to a policy of fixed prices, Laberge decides that he has to follow suit. Complaining of this change to Eduard Morceau, he says, "One of the joys of life I call it—pleasure of merchandising.

Shady side.

"But like every good thing, it has its shady side." It is bad for the disposition, the character, of the customer. It makes him alert, suspicious, disputatious, and insulting even at times. Yes, and it tempts the honest merchant to stretch the truth a little now and then. But he pays for that in the end when he goes to confess his sins to 'M'sieu le cure.' He is rude that one, and does not chew his words. He calls a lie a lie. Me, I give it a more polite name, but 'M'sieu le cure' is the boss."

Little sins costly.

Eduard Morceau replies, "Yes, I know. The church has the keys, and our little sins are costly at times. It pays to be good, n'est-ce pas? So you will have one price after this?"

Family history.

"The Habitant Merchant" is not only an excellent character sketch of Laberge, but is also a history of his family, for most of his stories are of incidents involving his ancestors and relatives. Mr. LeRossignol has kept his



Journal & Star. J. E. LEROSSIGNOL He writes of merchant

style carefully subdued, the better to portray the simple but direct lives of the French-Canadians. The careful repetition of French phrases adds to the color of the book. Imbued with humor, the stories are, every one, equally as quaint and interesting.

Joint recital features 26

Two musical honoraries join in concert Sunday

Phi Mu Alpha, Sinfonia, musical fraternity, and Mu Phi Epsilon, musical sorority, will present 26 musicians and the Phi Mu Alpha glee club in a joint recital Sunday at 4:30 in the Temple. The program is being presented under the auspices of the university school of fine arts, and is open to the public.

Mu Phi Epsilon's program consists of "Trio No. 4 in C Major," by Mozart, played by violin, cello, and piano; "For Music," by Franz, and "Music, When Soft Voices Die," by Doudy, sung by the set-tette, accompanied by violin, cello and piano; "Sonata," by Valentini, played by June Meek, cellist. Sinfonia's program includes "The Chase," by Tscherepne, sung by the quartet; "M'Appari," by Von Flotow, sung by Richard Koupal; "Interludium," by Glazounow, and played by the string quartet; and the glee club singing "Hail Sinfonia," by Sullivan and Saar; "By a Brook," by Grieg; and "Wade in De Waler," by Enders.

The University Symphony orchestra under the direction of Don A. Lentz will give a concert March 10 in the Union ballroom.

Gass' book...

'Family Crisis' is colorful, quietly charming, true story

The appearance of a book by a University professor is not so rare as to cause unusual comment on the campus—if the publication is a textbook. But fiction is another thing, and so when copies of "Family Crisis," by Prof. Sherlock Gass of the English department, were placed on bookstore shelves throughout the country recently, the University felt a rightful thrill of pride and anticipation. Nor will readers of the book feel disappointed, for although "Family Crisis" is not really fiction, as Professor Gass explains in an author's note, it is very definitely a story—an interesting, colorful, quietly charming story.

Story is true.

It is the story of a five-year period in the fortunes of Professor Gass's family occurring around the turn of the century when young Sherlock was in his early teens. It is unexploited truth, claims the author, but this does not mean that it is dull. Had fictitious names been used throughout and no explanation given as to the origin of the plot, the book would almost qualify as a novel. We say almost because "Family Crisis" adopts a conversational rather than a dramatic style.

Dialogue absent.

Dialogue is conspicuous only by its absence, and throughout its 278 pages one retains the feeling that he is not so much reading a book as listening to an accomplished story-teller who can keep up his audience's interest by a ready flow of humor, pictorial description, and varied characterizations.

The plot concerns the efforts of an American family—father, mother, and growing children—to earn a living by means of a wretched little laundry in the small town of Dayton, Ohio. Long hours and hard work do not bring them much financial return, but somehow none of the group becomes discouraged for long, and even when they do feel the weight of hardship and misfortune settling down on them, the reader can never feel really discouraged about their plight. For the book's characters are all somewhat like father who might have been able to find consolation for his defeat but "he never felt the need of such consolation." In other words, despite its treatment of adversity, "Family Crisis" is a cheerful, optimistic, hopeful book (but not at all in a syrupy sort of way), and one cannot read it without somehow feeling refreshed by the influence of its philosophy.

Book not pretentious.

There is nothing pretentious about Professor Gass's book, and therein lies its charm. It presents what must be an authentic picture of life in the nineties—a moving picture across which passes a colorful and varied assortment of characters—and yet there is none of that "realistic" crudity or flamboyancy of emotions which characterizes many books of similar field. The story is handled with a restraint which enables one to read it from cover to cover in an evening with undisturbed enjoyment

and satisfaction. It clearly reveals the author's philosophy without raising its voice above a civilized tone, and it manages to be deep in its significance without dredging the bottoms for inspiration.

Students unacquainted with Professor Gass's previous published works may be interested to learn that he is the author of two books of essays as well as a very successful detective story which appeared under the pseudonym of Morrison Dupree. His work also has appeared in the Yale Review, the Bookman, the Atlantic Monthly, and other American magazines. "Family Crisis" is published by Reynal and Hitchcock of New York City in a beautifully bound edition which in itself is worthy of comment.

The spring turns students thoughts from the library

It has been said that in the spring a student's mind quickly turns from thoughts of study. Fewer people spend their time in the library on actual book learning. October is the month of intellectual study. According to the university library more books were checked out during the month of October than any other month since the beginning of school last fall. However, during the month of January 3,672 books were checked out for home reading, while only 3,422 were taken out for home reading in October.

That many?

A total of 86,204 books were checked out of the library last semester, 29,939 from the main reading room, and 56,265 from the reserve room.

In purchasing books for student reference, the library figures that there should be one book for every 15 students. Taking this into consideration, students in an average class that meets three times a week will have equal opportunities of obtaining books for their reference work. The oldest printed book in the library is the Nuremberg Chronicle, published in 1473.

The oldest unprinted book is a small Babylonian clay tablet which is estimated to have been printed 25 years B.C. It has Cuneiform writing which was done with a sharp reed. The characters are small and resemble Chinese writing.

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Swing With Jo To Fashion Notes By Josephine Gold

Dear Betty Coeds...

Have you ever thought that you too might have amnesia... yes, thousands everywhere get lost because they cannot identify themselves... you needn't worry any longer, though, 'cause your private detective has found the solution for your safe return. Ben Simons

have "Identification" bracelets on which you put your name and phone number (by the way... very helpful in giving him a hint... get what I mean?). Also "Conversation" bracelets on which you write the message you wish to convey... they are ultra-fashionable... in gold or silver at \$1.95, pretty reasonable I'd say, to get that S. O. S. across. (It is a new way of flirting... but keep this confidential cause he might get wise.)

And Betty... you have often told me that you would love to have a pair of Pumps, but they don't fit your foot... Let me help you solve your problems... Now you march right down to Magee's and get a pair of "Tango" pumps with the elastic instep which relieves discomfort and helps them fit perfectly... They are toeless too... have pyramid heels (and you will love that). If you prefer to have low-heels they have those too. I go for those build-up lastex pumps with the square toes and grograin trim... Gosh, Betty, they are sumptin' at only \$6.95... Well, I don't have to tell you about Paradise shoes... they speak for themselves!

Say Betty! There is a new millinery silhouette causing much excitement... it is the FLEMISH SAILOR inspired by the halo-like coiffures painted by the old Flem-

ish masters. You'll find the new FLEMISH SAILORS at GOLD'S, in the third floor Millinery Department... They're priced from \$5.00 to \$7.50... They certainly meet with my approval...

Well Betty... it just wouldn't seem like spring if you didn't have a Herringbone weave suit to flare out in... the skirt has six-gorges and a leather belt to make it fit the waist-line. The jacket with those huge pockets and broad shoulders helps you carry his troubles too... You too, can have that Sportish look that the B. D. O. C. will have, if you wear one of these suits that also come in

plaid. Buy them separately... the skirt is \$3.95... the jacket \$5.95... Mix them and match them... that's the vogue. Gold & Co. has what you want. You might also look at the sweater and skirt combinations... in all pastel colors... Theda Chapoton and Betty Cox have been sporting classy numbers from Gold's...

Speaking of coiffures, have you seen the way Cleta's Beauty Shop styles hair? You may have on your smoothest costume, but if your hair looks disheveled you simply cannot look well groomed. Tomorrow is the Junior Senior Prom so be sure that you look your best... make your appointment with Cleta... 1127 R St., today. Cleta says that bangs are coming out with a bang. Betty Coed... let your hair have the care that it needs... Phone 2-4426.

Well—Betty dear, that's all the news for today. Expect same news from me next week.

As ever yours, Josephine Gold.