

## Alcove Booknotes

BY BOB WILKINS.

Books to be reviewed in this week's column are selected to give to students an idea of the type of reading that is available in the Alcove, a new addition to the university library originated to make available to students books of a lighter nature than those found in the rest of the library.

All of the Alcove books are worth while and cover a wide variety of contemporary subjects. It is up to the students to take advantage of this opportunity. This weekly column is written to acquaint students with some of the outstanding Alcove books.

### War Story.

"The Raft," by Robert Trumbull, is the story of three American navy fliers, Harold Dixon, Tony Pastula and Gene Aldrich, who were forced down in the Pacific. They scarcely had time to get themselves and their four-by-eight foot rubber raft out of the plane. "The Raft" tells, in Dixon's own words, the story of days without food and water, and exposure to the rays of the equatorial sun by day and the cold by night. It is also the story of courage and ingenuity.

When it rained they caught the water in the folds of their rubber life jackets. Dixon devised a crude navigation chart by which they planned their course. They made oars out of the soles of their shoes. Finally, after a thousand mile journey and over a month at sea, the raft reached the shores of a small, uninhabited Pacific island. A week later they were rescued by an American warship. "The Raft" is an outstanding chapter in the story of war and sea.

### Pre-war England.

In contrast with the turmoil of war today, the scene of Christopher Morley's most recent novel, "Thorofare," is a quiet English village in the late nineteenth century. In the latter part of the story the scene shifts to twentieth century America.

Morley's autobiographical novel is the story of the adventures of Geoffrey Barton, an English boy, from the time of his arrival in the United States at the age of 16 to the time he became an American citizen. The Bartons had lived for generations in the beautiful, uneventful village of Wilford, England. The title of the book is taken from the name of the village main street, Thorofare.

A radical change came into their quiet lives in the early twentieth century when they were persuaded to leave their comfortable English home to come to America. The important action for the story begins with the arrival of the Bartons in Philadelphia. "Thorofare" is an absorbing novel, humorous, and, at times, exciting.

### Anthology.

"This is My Best," edited by Whit Burnett, is a book of a different nature. The book is an anthology containing pieces of writing by 93 contemporary American authors. The problem facing the editor was choosing the outstanding living American authors. Since he wanted other people's opinion on the question, he sent a list of 150 contemporary writers to almost 20,000 men and women who know authors and books. The authors were then chosen by ballot of this group.

The choice of the pieces of writing to be used was left to the authors. "This is My Best" contains short stories, plays, poetry,

## Civil Service Issues Call For Workers

Persons with a practical knowledge of the production of rubber and oil-producing crops are being interviewed by the Civil Service commission in regard to positions paying \$2,600 to \$8,000 a year and located principally in Central and South American countries.

The work will include establishment and operation of research stations and plantations growing rubber or oil-producing plants. Plantations will be situated for the most part, in remote and primitive areas. The duties will involve making sur-

selections from novels, biography and essays. The book is an excellent all-over picture of today's authors and their work.

veys of the country to determine the selection of proper sites, soils, and other essential factors.

Applications will be accepted until the needs of the service has been met, but qualified persons are urged to apply immediately. There are no age limits, and no written examination will be given. Applications and complete information may be obtained at all first and second class post offices.

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## First WAACS, Then WAVES, Now WIRES

About 8,000 women who are taking Army Signal Corps training courses in schools and colleges thruout the country are now eligible for the WAACS, the War Department announced yesterday.

These women, commonly known as the WIRES—Women in Radio and Electrical Service—have been training for the past few months as radio operators, technicians and repairmen, and as telephone switchboard and instrument repairmen along with some 22,000 men in the enlisted reserve.

By offering them positions in the WAACS, the women's reserve is adding to its ranks occupational specialists already pretrained by the Signal Corps.

Warning, however, that the

WIRES don't have an automatic open sesame into the Women's Army Auxillary Corps, WAC officials point out that just like everyone else, women training for Signal Corps work have to meet regular WAAC requirements. The new order also specifies that in the future no women can be eligible for the WIRES unless she can also meet WAAC standards.

Women in Radio and Electrical Service now who enroll in the WAAC will be assigned to inactive duty until they have finished their training. They will then be called as needed, sent to a training center for basic military training, and then ordered to fill a vacancy for a communications specialist in one of the WAAC companies doing work in the field. A WAAC enrolled communications trainee who fails to pass the Signal Corps course automatically becomes an auxillary in the Women's Army Reserves.

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