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## Notes and Comments

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It is not likely that any one else will ever go to live there. . . . I think to-day of that fireless, empty, forsaken house, where the winter sun shines in and creeps slowly along the floor; the bitter cold is in and around the house, and the snow has sifted in at every crack; outside it is untrodden by any living creature's footstep. The wind blows and rushes and shakes the loose window-sashes in their frames, while the padlock knocks—knocks against the door.



### NOTES AND COMMENTS

RECENT acquisitions have included three interesting early American imprints: (1) *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*, Part I of the famous drill manual by Baron von Steuben, Hartford, Conn., Nathaniel Patten, 1792—presented to the library by Professor Alfred K. Chapman; (2) *Laws of the State of Maine*, Hallowell: Goodale, Glazier & Co., 1882 (when the state of Maine was only two years old)—also presented by Professor Chapman; and (3) *Boswell's Life of Johnson* in five volumes, the Second Boston Edition (printed in Bellows Falls, Vermont), Boston: Charles Ewer and Timothy Bedlington, 1824—presented by Morton M. Goldfine, '37.

G. D. H. Cole's new book, *Samuel Butler* (Denver, Colorado, 1949) reflects an invitingly fresh new light back on the Samuel Butler Collection recently given to Colby by Mr. I. R. Brussel.

IN a little-known but characteristic and sprightly essay by A. E. Housman—a preface which he wrote for *Nine Essays* by Arthur Platt (Cambridge University Press, 1927)—Housman observes: "University College, London, like many other colleges, is the abode of a Minotaur. This monster does not devour youths and maidens: . . . it preys . . . on the Professors within its reach. It . . . exacts a periodical tribute from those whom it supposes to be literate. Studious men who might be settling *Hoti's* business and properly basing *Oun* are expected to provide amusing dis-

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courses on subjects of which they have no official knowledge and upon which they may not be entitled even to open their mouths."

On Friday, October 21, the Colby Library Associates showed themselves unwilling to be ranked among the Minotaurs of the academic world. Instead of preying on the professors, they sought out a man well qualified to open his mouth on a subject of which he has expert knowledge. On the date mentioned, Dr. John N. Feaster, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, spoke in our Robinson Treasure Room on the Kennebunkport School of Maine Authors. The word "School" was not in Dr. Feaster's own version of the title of his address, for Margaret Deland, Booth Tarkington, and Kenneth Roberts obviously do not belong to a "school" in any proper sense of that word. All three, however, lived in Kennebunkport, and Dr. Feaster spoke delightfully and instructively about them.

The exhibition-cases were filled for this occasion with books by Kenneth Roberts and by Margaret Deland. Among the first editions of the Roberts books were a number autographed by him, but the prize item—easily the most distinguished in the entire exhibition—was the manuscript of *The Lively Lady*. This historical novel was first published in 1931, four years before Mr. Roberts came to Waterville to receive his honorary doctorate from Colby College. The manuscript consists of one bound volume in the novelist's autograph and three volumes of much-revised typescript. Also included in the exhibition was a scrapbook containing scores of letters sent to Mr. Roberts in ardent approval of his irate article in last year's *Saturday Evening Post*, entitled "Don't Say That About Maine!"

Also on exhibition for Dr. Feaster's address were the books in the Margaret Deland Collection, presented to Colby by Mr. N. N. Wallack of Washington, D. C. (For a complete check-list of this collection, see the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY for November, 1948.)