

Drama Great Social Force Avers Louis Anspacher

By Helen Macchia

"The great dramatist thrills all without distinction of race, creed, color or wealth," said Louis K. Anspacher in opening his lecture entitled, *The Social Force of Drama*. This was the

third lecture of the Christian Culture Series held at Aquinas Institute on Sunday evening, Nov. 15. This was the first lecture of the series in which two guest artists were included in the same program.

Following the excellent lecture given by Mr. Anspacher, Margaret Anglin, whom Mr. Anspacher cited as the greatest emotional actress of the day, explained and acted out scenes from "Henry VIII," "The Trojan Woman" and "The Rivale." In these, she gave the audience a slight insight into her capabilities and artistry in the drama. She was assisted by Edward J. Dolan of the Aquinas Institute faculty.

Defining a social force as one which acts upon society, Mr. Anspacher stated that drama is a social force since it gets directly upon the will of man. In drama, there is a continuous conflict and clash of wills. The hero in a play is one who creates a new mood, the nucleus of drama. All other factors contribute toward the will of the hero.

The great dramatists of the world have realized that certain characters have possessed wills too strong to be portrayed in a drama, he pointed out. For example, Shakespeare does not introduce Caesar into his play as the great conqueror, but introduces him as a weak man carried onto the stage in a litter. Shakespeare knew that Caesar's will was too great for drama.

Written for Times

The second point made by the lecturer concerning the drama is that all drama is contemporary. It is written for the times in which it is produced, but its quality wins for it immortality. In 1603 James VI became the King of England. Immediately all playwrights became Scotch. All plays that were written had to concern Scotland, the land from which the new king had come.

"Drama of all the arts is the one in which we, as the audience, collaborate," said the noted producer Anspacher. This third aspect of drama makes drama the most democratic of all the arts. It is pre-eminently a social act. The play which we, as the audience, write in our own mind is far more important insofar as it is of our own mind, than any which Shakespeare has written. This collaboration on the part of the audience takes place when the audience reads between the lines, as it were. The successful playwright is the one who can create many such situations in which the audience can take the few lines presented and then construct and build up the scene together with the actor.

History presents facts, but drama shows the deep emotional motives within the person's soul. The lecturer cited one of Robert Browning's love songs in which Browning asked his wife to love him for all that he had tried to do and had failed to accomplish. Drama realizes all that history has tried and failed. Drama portrays the spirit of the artist, the painter, and the sculptor. Mr. Anspacher stated further that the heart beats always and that "more people feel more than can think." He said that "drama appeals directly to the heart and implicitly to the head, great thoughts coming from the heart."

Lincoln and Theater

In this country before the time of Abraham Lincoln, no one associated with dramatists. But Lincoln was a man who never went to bed without having a play at his bedside. Uncle Tom's Cabin, he declared, is the most successful play ever written in America. It succeeded in implanting the hatred of slavery in the heart and slavery was doomed. The first thing that Lincoln did after he signed the Emancipation Proclamation was to send for Harriet Beecher Stowe. He shook hands with her saying, "Good gracious, is this the little woman who caused the war?" Even today, this is the most successful play which is produced in America. By examining Shaw and Galsworthy, we find their influence on the people of their times. Galsworthy's play, *Justice*, started prison reform in England.

In our present day, the box-office of a commercial theater is a democratic institution. "Here is the place that you cast a ballot," the speaker said.

The public has the power of even the most democratic govern-

ment. Just by staying away from the box-office for the period of one week, the public can make or ruin a play. The public, however, debauches the theater. The great economist, John Graham Brooks, said concerning the law of creative purchase: "If I walk down Main Street and purchase a cheap print I am creating a demand. This law works the same in the theater," Mr. Anspacher said.

Sisters' Annual Sale Opens At Nazareth, Nov. 23

Christmas gift suggestions will be found in abundance at the annual sale to be conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Nazareth Academy auditorium on Monday evening, Nov. 23, and continuing through Saturday evening, Nov. 29. Arranged for purchase will be fine needlework, aprons, crocheted and knitted articles, hand decorated china and novelties.

Friends are invited by the Sisters to visit the auditorium any time during the day or evening.

Special Dinner At Nazareth Set

Plans are completed for the special Thanksgiving Dinner to be sponsored by Nazareth Associates in Nazareth Academy Cafeteria on Monday and Tuesday evenings, Nov. 23 and 24.

The dinner will be served from 5:30 to 8:30 P. M. Tickets available now from Associates and friends are 75c each. Hostesses - Nazareth College Alumnae:

Monday, Mrs. Lewis Boyce, Alma Lou Ginnity, M. Bernice Ginnity, Mrs. Wm. Clair, Ruth Lintal, Margaret Mary McGrow, Margaret Smith, Jean McNeil, Jane Cullkin, Helen Hendricka, and Harriett Hook.

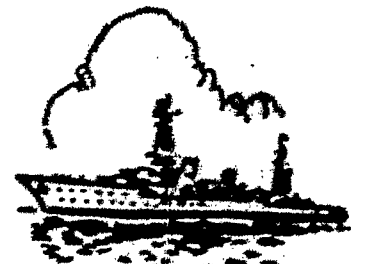
Tuesday - Mrs. Donald Foley, Mary Deary, Mildred Mykins, Hilda Connor, Elizabeth Dowling, Ellen Foley, Mildred Curtin, Mary Welch, Mary Weiss and Marie Veltier. Dorothy Craig is chairman.

Assails Errors Menacing Youth

SANTIAGO, Chile.—His Excellency the Most Rev. Marcellino Silevani, Papal Nuncio to Chile, addressing the 8,000 youths attending the Third National Congress of Catholic Youth at Valparaiso, deplored "the incalculable number" of youths who have been the victims of "the most absurd intellectual errors, the most infamous moral seductions, and lamentable sectarian organizations."

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

Navy Cruisers are built in two classes, light and heavy, the latter displacing about 10,000 tons. Our navy has about an equal number of light and heavy Cruisers, the 10,000 ton Cruiser costing approximately \$20,000,000. Many Cruisers are under construction and many more are needed.



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HOLY APOSTLES PARISH

THANKSGIVING FETE SET

The annual Thanksgiving Fete will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 24, in the school hall. Books have been distributed and awards will be made at the social.

SOCIETY DINNER

The Rotary Society Christmas Dinner will be served in the school auditorium, Wednesday evening, Dec. 2. Mrs. Henry Lashard is

Work of Christ

The feast of the Holy Family is the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we make our plans to meet our needs and prepare for the victory which comes to those who will bring themselves into sub-

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