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If you are not already a Howard Vincent O'Brien enthusiast, make a point of tuning in on WMAQ on Tuesday evenings at 7:45. His genuine appreciation of books, combined with a nice sense of humor and a lively presentation, make his radio reviews a delight. Mr. O'Brien is the literary editor of the Chicago Daily News.

Those Deadly Classics
There has been a sudden run of popularity on Plato and the Greek dramatists, even Cicero is much sought after. The explanation is that an ambitious group of local people are following the Columbia Honors Course.

The revival of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* last year cast some light on the dry as dust concept of the concept of the classics. Now Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning becomes Electra* has stimulated interest in the trilogy of Aeschylus and the single plays of Euripides and Sophocles on the *Electra* theme.

Thornton Wilder of *Woman of Andros* fame is giving a series of five lectures on Sophocles for English readers. The University of Chicago is sponsoring this course which is given at the Art Institute during February and March.

On Contract Bridge
Culbertson, Contract blue book.
Lenz, My system of contract bidding.
Perhaps you are one of these amateurs who is waiting to see the outcome of the Culbertson-Lenz tournament in order to decide which of contract to learn.

We are not reading more these days, but we are reading books of a more serious character than formerly. Several years ago few of us would look twice at a book on economics. Now we are wondering what the depression is all about, and we are reading to get a little light on the subject. Such books as the following are stimulating and informative.

- Hard times, the way in and the way out, by R. T. Ely.
- Business adrift, by W. B. Donham.
- America's way out, by N. M. Thomas.
- Nemesis of American business, by Stuart Chase.
- Our economic morality, by Harry Ward.
- Some folks won't work, by Clinch Calkins.
- World's economic dilemma, by E. M. Patterson.

More than one person is eagerly awaiting the publication of the second volume of William Rothenstein's *Men and memories*. In the meantime his friends can speak for themselves.

- Whistler, Gentle art of making enemies.
- Wilde, De profundis.
- Rodin, Art.
- Shaw, Ellen Terry and Bernard Shaw, a correspondence.
- Beerbohm, Christmas garland.
- Harris, Shaw, an unauthorized biography.

New Year's Day

With the approaching of the New Year it is not unusual to wonder how other countries observe this day of good feeling and fellowship. One authority states "there is no holiday that is so widely celebrated in the different countries of the earth as New Year's day. Not only among English-speaking people like ourselves, but among Mexicans, Turks, Greeks, Chinese, Japanese, and Hawaiians, is the day given up to festivities and rejoicing. The new year does not begin on the first of January in every country, but on whatever date it is celebrated, one and the same idea is associated with it—that of good will and kindly feeling, often expressed in quaint customs and oftener still in the giving and receiving of presents."

"In certain parts of England and Scotland it was customary directly the clock struck 12 on New Year's Eve for the young people to rush off to the nearest spring of water. Whoever first tasted the water then drawn, might look for good luck during the coming year.

Another curious New Year's Eve custom was that of "apple-howling," as it was called. Boys used to go into the apple orchards and standing round a tree, would rap the trunk with sticks singing the while: Stand fast root, bear well top, Pray God send us a good howling crop.

Oftentimes on New Year's Eve the streets of the city of Edinburgh would be more crowded than they were in the middle of the day. On New Year's day itself the boys would go from house to house, asking for eats or money. Sometimes a funeral would be held over the Old Year, and then the boys would sing the following ditty before each house at which they called:

I wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year,
A pocketful of money,
And a cellar full of beer,
And a good fat pig
To serve you all the year.
Ladies and gentlemen
Sitting by the fire,
Pity us poor boys
Out in the mire.

There were also many strange superstitions connected with New Year's day. It was considered very unlucky for any one to go out of the house until some one had entered it. In Lancashire it was very bad luck for a person to give another a light on New Year's morning. It was also unlucky to give out anything before you had received something.

One common form of present on New Year's day was that of "pin-money." In the times of which we have been speaking, pins made of wire were very expensive and consequently were very little used. Many persons used skewers of wood. So on this day it was the custom for men to give their wives and daughters money for pins and knick-

knacks. And this is how the term "pin-money" came into use.

The Chinese make their New Year the greatest of festal times, for they not only pay their social debts but their financial debts as well.

So be it in England, America, Hawaii, or any other place, we say in the words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Francis J. Beckman, long an influential republican party worker in Waukegan, has announced that he will seek election to the office of circuit court clerk on the Democratic ticket in the elections next year.

Oscar Rosenthal, noted Chicago expert on building finance plans, will appear before a joint session of Lake county building trade union representatives sometime early in January to forward plans which it is hoped will spur construction in the county.

St. John's Evangelical Church
Corner Green Bay road and Homewood avenue.

Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.
Divine services, 11:45 a.m. Rev. J. H. Taylor will preach the sermon Subject, "The Discipleship."
Thursday, Jan. 7—Choir practice at 7:45 a.m.

We sincerely hope that all members and friends, who filled the church to capacity on Sunday evening, thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful cantata, "The Herald Angels," rendered us by the Grace Reformed church of Chicago.

Our church extends sincere good wishes to all in this community for the coming year.

The automobile crash, which took the lives of Chester Collins, 24, 16 North West street, and Charles W. Edwards, 31, 16 North West street, both of Waukegan, December 12 on Green Bay road, was attributed to a third automobile, the driver of which fled after the crash, according to a verdict reached by a coroner's jury at the inquest last week.

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