

# PULITZER 1925 AWARDS MADE TO VIVID TYPES

## Fame a Bore to Novelist Spurning This Year's Prize—Others Include Son of Creator of "Uncle Remus" and Playwright Who Dislikes Theatre

By STEUART M. EMERY.

**T**HE personalities behind the works honored last week by the 1925 Pulitzer prizes in journalism and letters leap forth in vivid incidents and flashing sidelights that have seldom been equaled since the establishment of the award.

Not the least vivid incident was the refusal of the author of the prize-winning novel to accept his award. He is a celebrity who has declared that "being famous is a good joke, but sometimes it's a great bore." The author of the play selected by the Pulitzer Committee of Award locked himself in a dressing room the night of its tumultuous premiere and refused to be drawn forth to receive the applause of the audience.

The poetry prize was given to a leader of the "new verse" movement almost a year to a day after her death. The recipient of the award for the best example during 1925 of a reporter's work risked his life hour after hour while he fought to save the life of a trapped man. The biographer honored presented to the world an illuminating study of the famous physician who suffered as few prominent men have suffered through being the victim of garbled accounts of a speech which reported him as declaring that all men over 60 should be chloroformed.

The fighting editor whose newspaper received a gold medal for "the most disinterested and meritorious public service" of 1925 is the son of Joel Chandler Harris, whose "Uncle Remus" will never be forgotten. And the writer of the prize-winning editorial learned the art of stirring readers' thoughts and sympathies under the great Charles A. Dana.

"Arrowsmith's" Author.

Sinclair Lewis, who wrote "Main Street" and "Babbitt" and then spurned the Pulitzer prize for "Arrowsmith," stood in a Kansas City pulpit not long ago, and, drawing forth his watch, challenged God to strike him dead. "Here is a lovely chance for God to show what He can do if he is a Fundamentalist God," he was quoted as saying. Lewis is a novelist who when he gestures does so vigorously. "Main Street" made him famous, "Babbitt" added to this fame and "Arrowsmith" fixed his position as a master of social satire and a wielder of the complacency

for poetry, is a collection of the manuscripts she left behind, the accumulation of four years. The essence of austere and emotional New England is in its lines, the wide range of interest and love of beauty that were the writer's fill its pages. There is, for example, the following, entitled "Meeting House Hill":

*Pausing a moment upon a squalid hill-top,*

*I watch the spire sweeping the sky.*

*I am dizzy with the movement of the sky;*

*I might be watching a mast*

*With its royals set full,*

*Straining before a two-reef breeze.*

*I might be sighting a tea-clipper,*

*Tacking into the blue bay,*

*Just back from Canton,*

*With her hold full of blue and green*

*porcelain,*

*And a Chinese coolie leaning over the*

*rail*

*Gazing at the white spire*

*With dull, sea-spent eyes.*

"I want to see American poetry shaken up, roused, put on the map among things of vital consequence," Miss Lowell told a critic once, shaking at him one of her famous little cigars. She was a poet who was not only always

ing that Osler's greatest professional service was that of a propagandist of public health measures." Sir William Osler was, undoubtedly, the greatest clinical teacher of his age. In his dedication of the work to medical students the author writes:

"In the hope that something of Osler's spirit may be conveyed to those of a generation that has not known him, and particularly to those in America, lest it be forgotten who it was that made it possible for them to work at the bedside in the wards."

### An Osler Anecdote.

Dr. Cushing relates how Dr. Osler, after finishing his epoch-making work, "The Principles and Practice of Medicine," at the urging of the widow of a Philadelphia colleague, handed her the first copy with the remark:

"There, take the darn thing, and now what are you going to do with the man?" They were married shortly afterward.

It is also told how the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research came into being through one of Mr. Rocke-

agony, his constant hope when life seemed nearing an end, is enough to strengthen the heart of any one. Collins doesn't know it, but he is playing a very, very big part in his own rescue."

Collins was entombed by a rise in the floor of the cave and after seventeen days the rescuers drilled down to him, only to find him dead. "Skeets" Miller, who now receives the Pulitzer award for the best example of a reporter's work during 1925, returned to The Courier-Journal, which presented him with a bonus of \$1,000. Here, however, was a reporter who had never liked his work and frankly admitted it. He wanted to obtain a musical education. Today he is in the ice cream manufacturing business in Winter Haven, Fla.

Julian Harris, the editor of The Enquirer-Sun of Georgia, has accepted the Pulitzer medal and his nomination as a member of the advisory board of the Columbia School of Journalism with the proviso that these honors are to be shared equally by his wife, Julia Collier Harris, who has aided him in all his campaigns. The Enquirer-Sun received the award "for the service which it rendered in its brave and energetic fight against the Ku Klux Klan, against the enactment of a law barring the teaching of evolution against dishonest and incompetent public officials and for justice to negro and against lynching."

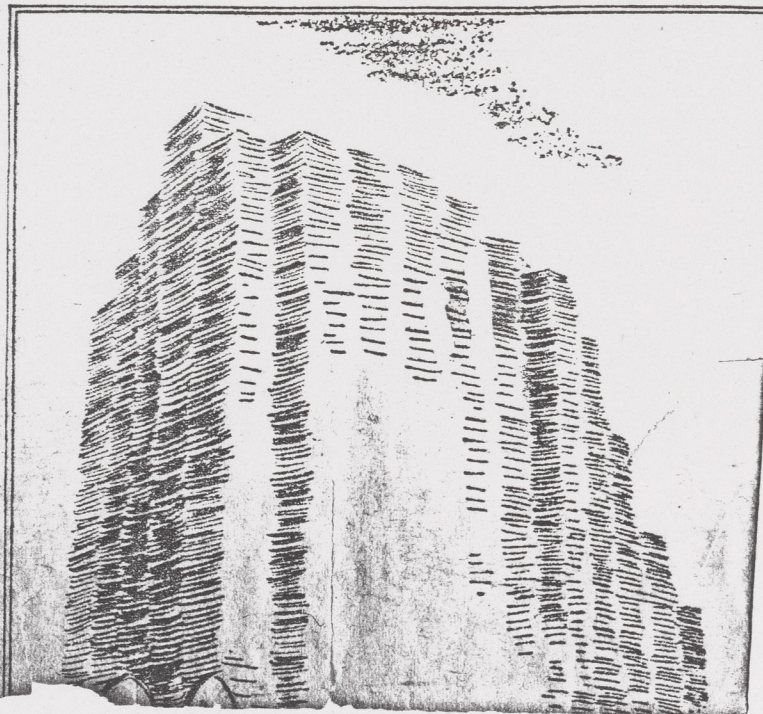
### Story of a Bitter Fight.

The story of the fight of Mr. Harris against the Klan and other evils best told in his own words:

"From the moment I assumed editorship of The Enquirer-Sun the original program of a fight against the cowardly masked gang was broadened out. My first editorial was entitled 'Putting Out a Fire With Gasoline,' and criticized adversely Judge George F. Munro in connection with the change in venue for a murder case, was arrested and brought before Court on the charge of contempt. There I stated my views on what a newspaper should stand for and the imperative need for a free press. I was dismissed with a warning; the Judge was defeated at the next election.

"For more than five years The Enquirer-Sun has fought the Klan, denouncing it as 100 per cent. un-American and as a cowardly masked gang, which attempted to usurp the rights of

## THE PRIZE WINNING CARTOON





It was the small town he depicted with photographic realism. "Babbitt" deftly removed the epidermis of the business man of the Zenith City type. Now comes the practiced pen that is turned into a scalpel in "Arrowsmith," an attack upon the commercialism of medical men who seek to exploit the latest discoveries for their own profit.

At 34, George Kelly is also a celebrity—one who shuns the limelight on all occasions and cannot be persuaded to ascend the steps of the lecture platform or even address club gatherings. He has been acting since he was 19 and writing since he was 24. The "Torch-Bearers" was a shining beacon when it arrived on Broadway a few seasons back. "The Show-Off" was recommended by the 1924 Pulitzer play jury for the prize, but they were overruled by the advisory board. Then came "Craig's Wife," which won the Pulitzer award this year.

#### A Composite Character.

"Craig's Wife" is a study of a woman whose one aim in life is to attain security through her marriage. She wants a house, the comforts of life, and she has every intention of getting them. Harriet Craig's efforts are directed to bringing her husband completely under her domination and by so doing to rule their home. She dislikes his friends and she is fiercely jealous of every woman who enters the door. In the end her husband learns the truth and leaves her, the servants depart, her niece joins the general exit and she is alone in her victory—the possession of a house that is hers, to be sure, but in which she is the sole tenant.

"Who, Mrs. Craig?"

"She is a composite character," said George Kelly. "I have seen hundreds of them in real life. When they marry they want to know one thing and one thing only: Where do I get off in this partnership? If you ever hear a man remarking, 'My wife says,' then you may be sure you are in the presence of Mrs. Craig's husband."

#### Kelly's Letters.

Hundreds of letters have come to Mr. Kelly asking him to tell how he writes his plays. "The ability to write is based on the faculty of subconscious observation," is his answer. "How hard is it? Well, you have to learn to work for hours and hours on a single page of a play and then perhaps throw it into the waste basket. Playwriting calls for endless patience. I consider that a play ought to represent real life, and life never follows a set formula. My work is nearly always the outcome of spontaneity and is not based on formal study."

Mr. Kelly takes his work seriously. He never goes to the theatre, saying that he simply doesn't like it. His brother, Walter C. Kelly, has been famous in vaudeville for years as the "Virginia Judge." An earlier distinction than the Pulitzer Prize came to "Craig's Wife" when it was awarded the gold medal of the Theatre Club.

With the death

President

ward, la



### "THE LAWS OF MOSES AND THE LAWS OF TODAY."

Drawn by D. R. Fitzpatrick, and Appearing in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on April 12, 1925.

willing, but anxious, to defend her theories concerning the beauties of unrhymed verse.

"One objection that many critics bring up against unrhymed poetry is that it cannot be remembered," she said to the late Joyce Kilmer. "I cannot see that that is of the slightest importance. The music we whistle when we come out of the theatre is not the greatest music we have heard. After all, there are only two kinds of poetry, good poetry and bad poetry. The form of poetry is a matter of individual idiosyncrasy."

The last work of Miss Lowell was put on when she was gallantly battling against ill health. In all she has left more than half a dozen volumes of poetry and several books of criticism, as well as a two-volume biography of Keats.

#### Surgeon and Author, Too.

A leading brain surgeon—Dr. Harvey Cushing, now Professor of Surgery at Harvard—is the author of the prize-winning biography, "The Life of Sir William Osler." No one is likely to forget the tumult roused a number of years ago when it was reported that Dr. Osler had said that a man over 40 was useless and a man over 60 ought to be chloroformed. It was a garbled account of a farewell speech just before he left America, the Cushing biography clearly explains, a speech in which Dr. Osler gave vent to his turn for whimsicality and referred to Anthony Trollope's suggestion of a college and chloroform for those of 60-odd.

"A labor or love," Dr. Cushing calls his two-volume work, in which he says that "one cannot escape the feel-

feller's assistants, a layman, taking the "Principles" away with him for his Summer reading. He became so interested in its material on the need for research that the Rockefeller institution was the result.

Dr. Cushing was born in Cleveland in 1869 and was graduated from Yale and from the Harvard Medical School. Fifteen years ago he became Professor of Surgery at Harvard and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston.

#### Directed Rescue Work.

In February of last year all America watched the efforts to rescue Floyd Collins, trapped in Sand Cave, Kentucky, by a boulder which fell on his leg. William Burke Miller, more familiarly known as "Skeets," was assigned by The Louisville Courier-Journal to cover the story. For days he directed the rescue work in and about the cave that was to prove Collins's tomb. He is slight of figure and weighs only 110 pounds. He was able to worm his way down the narrow crevice that led to Collins and dig away the earth. He brought him food and placed electric lights about his body. Again and again he entered the passage to fight for Collins's life, every moment in danger that a cave-in might bring death to him also. In the meantime his graphic messages to his paper were broadcast all over the country.

"It is terrible inside," ran one of his descriptions. "The cold, dirty water numbs me as soon as I start in. I have come to dread it, as have all others who have been in, but each of us tells ourselves that our suffering is as nothing compared to Collins's. His patience during long hours of



constituted authority and foment racial prejudice and religious intolerance. With the exception of a small afternoon daily and a couple of weekly papers The Enquirer-Sun carried on a long fight. Finding no other Georgia paper intended to print The New York World's exposé of the Klan, The Enquirer-Sun did so. Twenty per cent. of its circulation disappeared and the air and mails were burdened with anonymous threats.

"The Columbus chapter of the Klan as a final gesture paraded about 300 strong, masked and robed and carrying placards which contained such Christian sentiments as 'America for Gentiles,' 'Down with the Jews,' 'Down with the Negro.' The fight against the Klan was continued until the local organization dwindled to the point of disappearing from public notice. The original chapter disbanded and efforts to get any strength have failed. Its first and last entry into local politics resulted in a four to one defeat.

"Along with the fight against the Klan The Enquirer-Sun took up the cudgels for religious tolerance and justice to the negro. In the face of what I call a banal and overworked slogan of 'It's Great to Be a Georgian,' which the present Governor either originated or adopted, The Enquirer-Sun has told without reserve what it believes to be the truth about the State, using such captions as 'The Empire State of Illiteracy,' 'The Invisible Empire State,' 'The Lynching of a Lunatic Negro' and 'Thirteen Little King Canutes.' The last caption was the opening gun of The Enquirer-Sun's campaign against the anti-evolution bill which was recommended for passage by the so-called legislative committee on education.

"Georgia legislators made a feeble flutter in 1925 to bring up the bill to prohibit the teaching of the theory of evolution, but so many Georgia newspapers opened fire on them that the matter was dropped. Nothing was heard of it in the extra session just ended.

"It was The Enquirer-Sun which uncovered the fact that Governor Clifford Walker of Georgia, after publicly announcing that he was going to Philadelphia for a rest, had sneaked to Kansas City and was the star figure at the national Klan meeting."

After serving as managing editor of

## THE PRIZE-WINNING EDITORIAL

*Following is the editorial written by Edward M. Kingsbury and recently awarded a Pulitzer Prize. It was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on Dec. 14, 1925, in connection with The Hundred Neediest Cases appeal.*

### THE HOUSE OF A HUNDRED SORROWS.

The walls are grimy and discolored. The uneven floors creak and yield under foot. Staircases and landings are rickety and black. The door of every room is open. Walk along these corridors. Walk into this room. Here is a sickly boy of 5, deserted by his mother, underfed, solitary in the awful solitude of starved, neglected childhood. "Seldom talks." Strange, isn't it? Some, many children, never "prattle," like your darlings. They are already old. They are full, perhaps, of long, hopeless thoughts. There are plenty of other "kids" in this tenement. Here is one, only 3. Never saw his father. His mother spurned and abused him. He is weak and "backward." How wicked of him when he has been so encouraged and coddled! Doesn't know any games. How should he? Do children play? Not his kind. They live to suffer.

In Room 24 is Rose, a house-mother of 10. Father is in the hospital. Mother is crippled with rheumatism. Rose does all the work. You would love Rose if she came out of Dickens. Well, there she is, mothering her mother in Room 24. In Room 20 age has been tolling for youth. Grandmother has been taking care of three granddaughters who lost their mother. A brave old woman; but what with rheumatism and heart weakness, threescore-and-ten can't go out to work any more. What's going to happen to her and her charges? Think-

ing of that, she is ill on top of her physical illness. A very interesting house, isn't it, Sir? Decidedly "a rum sort of place," Madam? Come into Room 23. Simon, the dollmaker—but handmade dolls are "out"—lives, if you call it living, here. Eighty years old, his wife of about the same age. Their eyesight is mostly gone. Otherwise they would still be sewing on buttons and earning a scanty livelihood for themselves and two little girls, their grandchildren. The girls object to going to an orphan home. Some children are like that.

You must see those twin sisters of 65 in Room 47. True, they are doing better than usual on account of the coming holidays; making as much as \$10 a month, whereas their average is but \$6. Still, rents are a bit high; and the twins have been so long together that they would like to stay so. In Room—but you need no guide. Once in The House of a Hundred Sorrows you will visit every sad chamber in it. If your heart be made of penetrable stuff, you will do the most you can to bring hope and comfort to its inmates, to bring them Christmas and the Christ:

"For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in.

"Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

The Atlanta Constitution, Mr. Harris came to New York as Sunday editor of The Herald during the régime of James Gordon Bennett. For some time he directed the Paris edition of The Herald. In 1921 he purchased the Columbus newspaper. He is a son of Joel Chandler Harris, known

the world over as the creator of "Uncle Remus."

### Cartoonist's Winning Picture.

Another interesting award is that for the best cartoon, which went to D. R. Fitzpatrick of The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. His picture, "The Laws of Moses and the Laws of Today," pre-

sents the laws of Moses on a background of giantism of the laws of modern times. The zen of today is shown in the ground with a ball and chain. Cartoons of Mr. Fitzpatrick have enjoyed a wide circulation.

Edward M. Kingsbury of THE NEW YORK TIMES was awarded the prize for the best editorial of 1925. It was "The House of a Hundred Sorrows," which appeared on the editorial page on Dec. 14, 1925, in connection with this newspaper's annual Christmas appeal for the Hundred Neediest Cases.

### Worked Under Dana.

Mr. Kingsbury joined the editorial staff of THE NEW YORK TIMES in 1915. He was graduated from Harvard in 1875 and in 1879 was admitted to the bar in Massachusetts. Two years later he became a member of the New York staff of The Sun, then under Charles A. Dana. In his book, "Dana and His People," Edward P. Mitchell, former editor-in-chief of The Sun, wrote of Mr. Kingsbury:

"For a third of a century Kingsbury was a prime factor in making the editorial page what it was by the kind-hearted to be. He had most of the talents except that of promotion. He caught speedily the inherited characteristics and added these the rich qualities of a quality almost unique for exquise humor, fine wit, broad literary vision and originality of idea and ph. From 1881 to 1915 many of the best table articles and casual essays on subjects a little apart from the more obvious actualities were due to that very accomplished and exceedingly modest artist of the pen."

The sixth volume of the "History of the United States," by Edward Charles McLean, Professor of History at Harvard, won the prize in American history. The value of the awards for the various classes are as follows: Novel, \$1,000; drama, \$1,000; history, \$2,000; biography, \$1,000; poetry, \$1,000; newspaper, \$500; medal; editorial, \$500; report story, \$1,000; cartoon, \$500. Prizes were established in the late Joseph Pulitzer, former publisher of The World. They are announced by the Advisory Board of the School of Journalism of Columbia University.