

A man of intense likes and dislikes, Mr. Ingalls repeatedly reveals his hearty disapproval of the New Deal and all of its works. To this reviewer, at least, his description of the United Nations Food Conference which was held at the Homestead in 1943, is unnecessarily unsympathetic for a host, even for a professional one.

Mr. Ingalls writes almost exclusively of persons who interested him—a policy that many local residents feel caused him to omit mentioning some solid citizens whose contributions to the Warm Springs Valley equaled and sometimes surpassed those of the people he included.

The objective, well-rounded and definitive history of this region of great mountain beauty is yet to be written.

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of the University of Virginia*

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*Auntie Kate: Her Journey Through Ninety Years.* By Katharine Garford Thomas. (Columbus, The Ohio History Press, 1949, pp. 252. Illustrations, portrait of Auntie Kate frontispiece. \$3.50.)

In the preface Katharine Garford Thomas, a grandniece of "Auntie Kate," refers to the book as a literary portrait. The term is well chosen, for the reader has constantly before him the picture of the charming and gracious woman whose memories of more than ninety years (1839-1932) form the main theme of this biography. Indeed, this is nearly an autobiography, for Auntie Kate (Katharine Moody Smith) is allowed to tell her own story, much of the book being a record of her conversations with her grandniece. These reminiscences are, however, supported and clarified by excerpts from letters and diaries, the cherished possessions of the family. It is in this device of having the old lady tell her own story that Mrs. Thomas gives her readers both pleasure and difficulty. The pleasure is in the discovery of a beautiful personality, which is shown through her conversations and letters more naturally than might have been possible had the author used some other device. The difficulty is just what one might expect: the reminiscences of a nonagenarian are likely to become rambling. Then, too, the names of the large circle of family and friends—all so entirely clear to Auntie Kate—often leave the reader somewhat bewildered. Nevertheless,

we realize that these difficulties are not of great importance. Most of the people in the story are interesting because of Auntie Kate herself.

As we follow Auntie Kate through a journey which covers the greater part of a century and the whole breadth of the continent, we are impressed by the fact that the lives of ordinary people, with their seemingly small daily concerns, are the real essence of history. The book is full of little pictures of people and their ways, pictures which help to give the third dimension to historical documents.

We see the Moody family making the difficult journey from their New England home to northern Ohio in the 1830's and going by way of the newly opened Erie Canal. A few years later, hard times made it necessary for Loman to give up his business in Ohio and return to New England.

We are given some idea of the education of young girls a hundred and more years ago, not only in the little red school house, where nearly all children began their education, but also in the boarding schools, where a young girl was taught dancing and "how to draw a rose." Kate Moody herself went to Mount Holyoke, and in her talk at this point gives some interesting light upon the beginnings of this famous school as well as upon her own experiences there.

After her college days were over, Kate went to Elyria, Ohio, to care for her sister's motherless children. Surely the residents of Elyria will take delight in the accounts of the early days of the town, accounts which go back to the original charter, granted by Charles II, and which continue to the 1930's, for it was there, in the beautiful home of a favorite niece, that Auntie Kate spent her last days.

She says little of the Civil War although it is evident that the national tragedy touched her deeply. One of her girlhood memories was of food and clothing which her mother kept stored in the wood shed for "contrabands," as the fugitive slaves were called. Her attitude toward Lincoln is likely to surprise the modern reader. She says that she then was "like all eastern people in their estimate of Lincoln. They did not feel that he measured up to what a president should be. They felt that he was not a gentleman." She concludes a letter with this sentence: "Abraham Lincoln seems to me an imbecile in respect to the war that's all." Later, however, she changed her mind on that subject.

While in Elyria, Kate Moody met the man who was to become her husband, William L. Smith, a widower with five children. Six of their own were added to this family. When she was fifty and he sixty-six, they felt the urge of Horace Greeley's slogan, "Go West, young man!" and set out for Washington Territory, where two of their sons had preceded them.

In Washington Territory, Mr. Smith took up a claim of six hundred acres in the Big Bend country. There we see the family living the life of pioneers in the new land. Although deprived of many of the comforts and conveniences to which they were accustomed, Kate made a pleasant and happy home. The walls of the new house, left in the natural wood (for it would have cost twenty dollars to have them plastered) were well covered with favorite pictures from home. Their water was drawn with bucket and rope from a well and, for household use, was stored in Standard Oil tins. For a woman who was accustomed to bathrooms in her house, this detail of housekeeping must, indeed, have been a hardship. So, too, must have been the problem of heating, for the only fuel to keep them warm in the intense cold was wood, which had to be hauled for a distance of twenty miles. Their only vehicle was the farm wagon, in which the children went gaily to school or church wrapped in buffalo robes. But Auntie Kate seems to have relished the life. "We lived like folks," she says and goes on to explain her meaning: there were plenty of clean clothes, good food, and good reading. Although crops were good, the market was so far distant that much of the profit was lost in transportation. So it was that the Smith family decided to return to Ohio in 1895.

The last chapters deal with Aunt Katie's family affairs, her journeys, and her many friends. The account of the long bright evening of her life is of interest chiefly because it throws more light upon a character which the reader has come to respect and to find delightful. In reading the book one's attention may sometimes wander as he tries to follow the somewhat rambling narrative but it will not be long before Aunt Katie will catch his interest again by some lively anecdote or illuminating comment. She is a woman who has a genius for discovering the beauty that is around all of us, in doors and out, in pleasant homes, and especially in human

character; and she has the gift of imparting this sense of beauty to the reader.

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Henrietta Hepburn

*The Wife of Marobius and Other Plays.* By Max Ehrmann. Edited by Bertha K. Ehrmann. (Boston, Bruce Humphries, Inc., 1949, pp. 170. \$3.00.)

The plays contained in this volume, "The Wife of Marobius," "David and Bathsheba," "The Light of the Sun," "Eternal Male and Female," and "A Virgin's Dream," were originally published separately.

In "The Wife of Marobius," Ehrmann attempted "to give an added radiance to love and a new charm to the words that depict it." The scene of the drama takes place in pre-Christian days in Rome. The author has ably treated the theme where the wife loves the beauty of soul and the husband loves the beauty of body.

"David and Bathsheba" follows closely the Old Testament story and contains both the humor and tragedy of life. Although the scene for the three acts on the roof of the palace of David is ancient and oriental, the characters are modern. Each of the ten wives of King David tries in her own particular manner to please him.

Ehrmann's earliest drama, "The Light of the Sun," has been produced on the stage several times. It is a one-act tragedy. "Eternal Male and Female" is a contest between men and women with respect to their love life. The poem, "A Virgin's Dream," included in this book also deals with the "love rights of women."

*Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States Senate.* Compiled by Harold E. Hufford and Watson G. Caudill. Preliminary Report No. 23. (Washington, The National Archives, 1950, pp. x, 284.)

This work is a preliminary inventory of the records of the United States Senate from the First Congress, 1789-1791, to the Seventy-ninth Congress, 1945-1946, which have been transferred to the National Archives. The index of sixty pages should be of considerable assistance to scholars.