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OF GENERAL INTEREST.

The Asylum for Mobs.

The report of the testimony about the mob murders at Mer Rouge, La., adds support to the contention of psychologists that action of this sort is not due to race antagonism or any other conscious mental bias, although it may be explained on these grounds by the perpetrators. As a matter of fact, the stimulation for such crimes is sadistic; that is, it arises from that abnormal mental condition which finds sensual enjoyment in inflicting pain. The tortures to which the murdered citizens of Mer Rouge were subjected show clearly that this condition was the basis of mob action.

The masked men at Mer Rouge are perverts. Left at large, they are as dangerous as people afflicted with paranoia or any of the other well recognized types of insanity. Mob violence is often spoken of as a relic of the Dark Ages. Rather it is a symbol of the lunatic fringe of our present civilization. Members of mobs belong in the insane asylum—and they should be put there before they get to the point of committing murder.—*Kansas Industrialist*, January 10.

Educators List Books for Life in Desert—What to Read on Island Selected by Six Professors of Princeton.

New York, Feb. 3.—Six Princeton University professors have decided upon the ten books they would take with them if they were to be marooned for the remainder of their lives on a desert island. A verse in Prof. Charles W. Kennedy's latest volume of poems, "The Wails of Hamelin," inspired the investigation:

"Upon my walls I'd have a row
Of ten wise, magic books I know
To bring all ages and all lands
Within the stretching of my hands."

The six professors contributing to the symposium are Mr. Kennedy, Dean Andrew Fleming West, Henry van Dyke (retired), Edwin Grant Conklin, head of the department of biology; Walter Phelps Hall of the department of history, and Christian Gauss, head of the department of romantic languages. William Shakespeare is the only author to be chosen by every one of them.

Prof. Kennedy's "ten wise, magic books" are, in the order chosen: The Bible, Plato's Dialogues, Homer's "Odyssey," Horace's Odes, Dante's "Divine Comedy," Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," Spencer's "Faery Queen," Shakespeare's plays, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and Browning's poems.

Dean West chooses the Bible, Shakespeare's plays, the "Odyssey," Virgil's poems, Horace's Odes, Milton's poems, Thackeray's "Henry Esmond," Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," St. Augustine's "City of God" and Burton Stevenson's home book of English verse.

Dr. van Dyke selects in the following order: The Bible, Shakespeare, Burton Stevenson's home book of English verse, Plutarch's "Lives," "Henry Esmond,"

Wordsworth's poems, and "I'd reserve the other four books until just before packing up for that journey to the desert isle."

Prof. Conklin: The Encyclopædia Britannica, Plutarch's "Lives," Plato's works, Homer's epics, Shakespeare, Darwin's works, Huxley's essays, Brehm's "Tierleben," Mark Twain's works (although he was asked what he would do if he failed to find them all between two covers) and Wells' outline of history.

Prof. Hall, like Prof. Conklin, does not include the Bible. His list is the book of common prayer, Shakespeare, the "Odyssey," Wordsworth, Kipling's collected verse, the Oxford book of German verse, "Pilgrim's Progress," Macauley's historical essays, Charmwood's "Abraham Lincoln," Trevelyan's "Garibaldi," and the "Defense of the Roman Republic."

Prof. Gauss selects the Bible, the "Odyssey," the "Divine Comedy," Shakespeare, the works of Goethe, Moliere's comedies, Murray's New English Dictionary, Plato, either Lavisse and Rimbaud's "Histoire Generale" or the "Cambridge Modern History," some anthology of verse—either Palgrave's "Golden Treasury" or the Oxford book of English verse.

All told, the professors name thirty-five books, nineteen works of prose and sixteen poetry. Each selects at least one book required to be read in one of his courses.—*The Washington Times*, February 3, 1923.

