

Effects of Modern Invention

Barbara Knotts

Despite the obvious advantages to civilization brought about by such innovations as the radio, improved printing and transportation methods, and the resultant wider dissemination of newspapers, these inventions have brought about a distinct decline in the subtlety and eloquence of language in the form of the written word. This is most vividly true in the field of political and social criticism. True, modern American literature has turned out such creditable factual exposes as Gunther's *Inside U. S. A.*, and such forceful criticisms as *Gentleman's Agreement* and *Knock On Any Door*, but these books are blunt, candid. In them no attempt is made at satirical fantasy or shaded implication. These books need not be entertaining; their readers, since they most likely have been informed of the general situation by radio or newspaper, expect only the impressive details.

Social evils have not disappeared, but a new Dickens has not appeared. Government is still corrupt, but another Swift has not yet arisen to write of the travels of a modern Gulliver. And though we have no social problem today to equal that of slavery, many other issues exist worthy of the poetical efforts of a new Whittier. But the type of literature which these men wrote is no longer the only means by which the people's social and political consciousness may be restored; therefore, it need not be so painstaking nor so masterful in its use of language. This literature is, in effect, actually unnecessary because much that it says is more easily conveyed to a wider audience by radio broadcasts or by terse newspaper articles. Thus the radio and the wider-reaching newspapers, although they undoubtedly effect the desired reform more quickly, have a decidedly discouraging effect on reform literature and, consequently, on the eloquent employment of language.

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Metropolis

Martha Pearson

I have visited New York City three times. Each visit was under completely different circumstances, and it would be difficult to determine which visit I enjoyed most. However, all things considered, I believe I should have to rate my first trip as being far more exciting than the others, and an experience