Editorial

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

A Champion of Civic Welfare and The Square Deal

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

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What The "AFRO" Stands For

1. Colored policemen, policewomen and firemen.
2. Colored representatives on city, county and state boards of education.
3. Equal salaries for equal work for school teachers without regard to color or sex.
4. Colored members of boards of State institutions where inmates are colored.
5. The organization of labor unions among all groups of colored workers.
6. A university and agricultural college for colored people supported by the State.
7. Closer co-operation between farmers and the State and Federal Farm Agents.

The Cheltenham Problem

The board of control of Cheltenham has refused to consider the proposal that this reform school for colored youth be turned over to the state.

The question that naturally arises is, why? The school, as it now stands, is a privately-operated institution. In spite of the fact that its support comes from state funds, the state has no direct control over its policies.

There is no doubt of the fact that Cheltenham has not done in the past, and shows little inclination to do in the future, the job it is supposed to do—reform youth. Under the present management, the state is powerless to force the issue.

Under the proposed plan the commonwealth has offered to pay the operators dollar for dollar on their investment, discounting the thousands of dollars of public money which have gone into the maintenance in past years. This seems a fair and economically sound proposition in face of the fact that without state aid the institution would not be able to exist.

The records are full of cases to prove that the administrators are not concerned about making better citizens of the youths entrusted to their care and have failed miserably in even their meager pretexts.

Why, then, are they so anxious to keep the state out?

We venture the charge that the board wants to hold Cheltenham not so much for the good it will do but because of the material benefits conected therewith.

The influence that comes from purchasing power and the distribution of jobs to the citizens of Prince Georges County are too small a privilege to be traded against the welfare of the youth of Maryland. This travesty on justice should be halted at once whether the board wants it or not.

A Lesson from Tennessee

Two white men are dead, seven are wounded and others were injured when national guardsmen opened fire on a mob bent on lynching a colored suspect in Shelbyville, Tennessee, Wednesday night.

Governor Hill McAlister, who came in for considerable criticism last year when lynchers ran rampant in his state, used the only method at the disposal of executives to prevent a repetition of that tragedy when he resorted to force.

In so doing, he saved the life of the intended victim, made it possible for him to obtain the benefits of legal procedure, and set an excellent example for other governors to follow.

His prompt action in despatching troops to the scene, with orders to shoot, was quite different from the usual custom of remaining at a safe distance and advising the local authorities to "keep me in touch with developments." The upshot of these "developments" is generally the information that the hapless victim has been lynched.

The usual contention after mob outbreaks, that none of the members could be identified, was also neatly taken care of.

Today, Shelbyville and the world know that two members of the mob are dead and no lengthy probe is needed to establish the guilt of their participation.

The moment that the fact is well established that lynchers, too, are likely to die, just so soon will lynching, as an American pastime, become less popular.

The First Christmas

(From St. Luke, Chapter II, Verses 1-14)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed, with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.

Observations and Reflections

By CLARENCE MITCHELL

New School Needed

The school board has frequently been charged with holding to a jim-crow policy in this city because there is only one colored high school to six white.

It has also been pointed out that colored junior high students have only three schools to attend, while the white pupils have fifteen.

On the face of things it appears that such arguments are false leads, and a hasty glance at figures released by the school board indicates that all is well.

At present there is one white junior high school for every 1,239 children of the total number of such pupils in the public schools, and one colored junior high school for every 1,196 children.

Every 2,100 white children of senior high school age in the public schools has a high school, while every 1,625 colored children of the same age has one.

There is one white teacher for every twenty-eight children in the junior and senior high schools, and there is one for every twenty-seven and a half children in the colored junior and senior high schools.

The differences come, however, when one begins to study the population figures, and makes comparisons in the proportionate number of white and colored children in the junior and senior high schools.

The population of Baltimore for 1934 is 677,433 whites and 156,870 colored people. For the white population one person of every thirty-five is a junior high school student, and one in every fifty-three is a senior high school student. For the colored population one in every forty persons is a junior high school student, and one in every ninety-five persons is a senior high school student.

Assuming that the number of white children attending junior high schools (18,597) is the normal figure in proportion to population, the colored pupils should be 4,482 instead of 3,559 as they now are.

Again, taking the number of white senior high school students (12,705) as a normal figure, the colored senior high school population should be 2,959 instead of the present number, 1,625.

It will be observed that the proportionate difference between the number of colored and white junior high school students and the number of colored and white senior high school students is greater for the senior highs.

A colored high school in East Baltimore would serve to increase the number of students going to the senior high school, and would also increase the enrollment of the present junior high school because parents would be convinced, from actual contacts with teachers and the school's administration, secondary education is desirable.

The old barrier of car fare to and from school that forms a problem in so many East Baltimore homes would be eliminated, and the cultural level of the community would automatically be higher.

While the rest of Maryland is busy trying to get a lot of legislation through at Annapolis, it would be a good idea to make this new East Baltimore school a number one project of 1935 for Baltimore.

* * *

Avenue Happenings

Life, whether painted as a jester or a philosopher, has a bag of tricks — the cleverest of which are usually tragic in their effects on careers and individuals.

On Saturday I walked into a tumble-down apartment house on Pennsylvania Avenue, and found an old school mate in the midst of falling plaster, a warped floor, and ruined furnishings.

A few years ago she was a youngster with a taste for mischief, but the restraining hand of a mother (who in my opinion was over-indulgent along some lines) always irked the school-girl "who had ideas about life."

How she got her start on the down grade is still a mystery to me, and I am afraid that even she cannot tell the exact time when it became easier to be loose than straight.

She does not say what became of her mother, but she is jealously guarding the welfare of the sister of a dead sweetheart.

Perhaps in recollection of maternal lectures, this girl, who had to learn what bitterness is at first hand, is attempting to push a fellow human out of the mud — although she knows that she is almost hopelessly immersed herself.

Down in Baltimore's tenderloin, where women have little chance to keep their self-respect and men are less than parasites, I am afraid the game of life will go against both the guardian and the guarded.

As I said at the beginning, however, life has a bag of tricks, and perhaps I shall one day meet the child who is being protected by a "fallen lady" riding the top wave of success.

* * *

Prospective Trouble

National trends, if newspaper reports are to be taken seriously, seem to indicate that the United States will soon have an army of Federal detectives trailing Communists and Fascists, who talk about over-throwing the government.

Should these measures be put into effect I tremble for the safety of the Communists, especially, because they advocate so many things that the people of the United States are opposed to by force of custom.

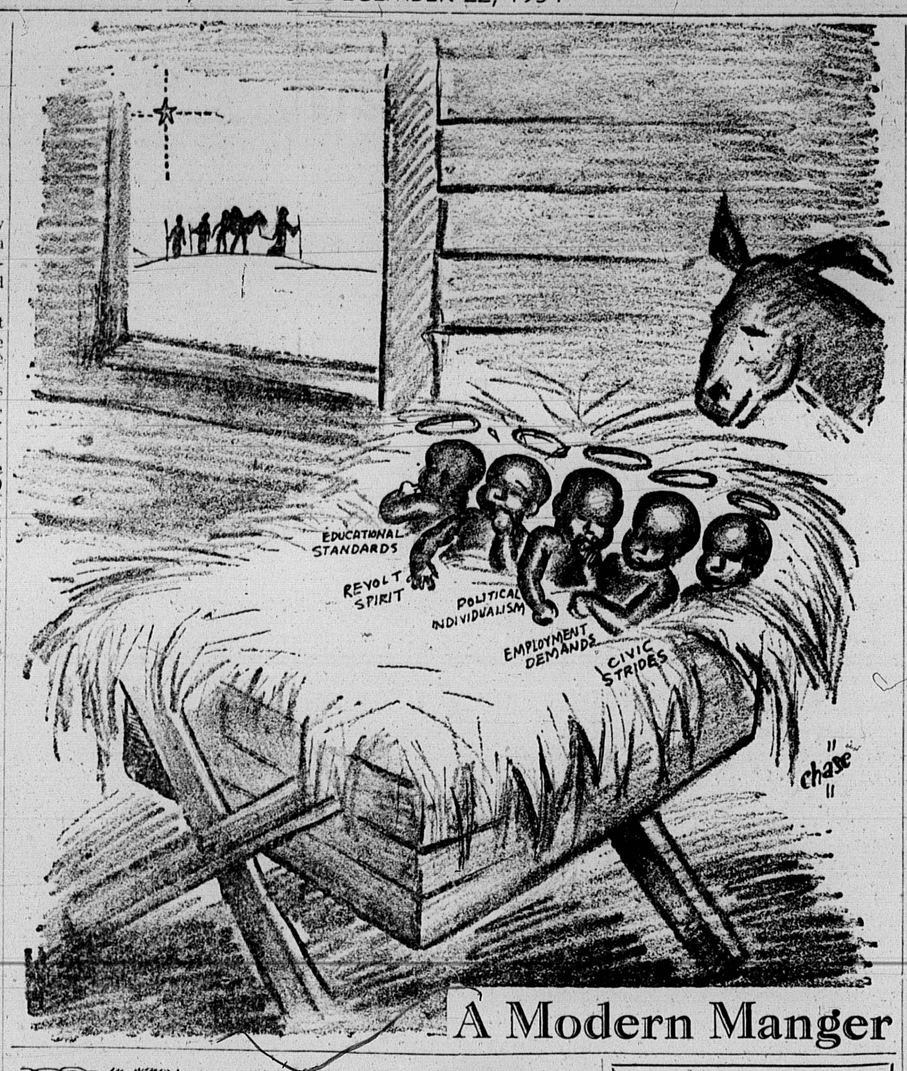
The Fascists, being more in accord with our familiar pastimes of lynching, discriminations, and sundry atrocities, would fare better. In fact it would not be surprising to learn that they would more or less control the investigations and administration of penalties.

I do not doubt but that the advocates of government by the proletariat would welcome some kind of persecution, because it would automatically make the individual who dares to be a Communist a hero.

At present the Communists are plagued (they will not admit this of course) with a number of people who do not necessarily believe in the doctrine, but let their beards grow long, refrain from bathing, and make a lot of noise just to be known as "radicals."

The term has become the connotation sought by high school students and collegians with avidity, while a number of others who get free rides around the country at the party's expense consider themselves in "soft spots."

A good stiff era of suppression will not crush the Communist party nor any of its sincere members, but it will do a lot toward separating the real progressives from the hangers-on.



A Modern Manger

Holiday Cheer

Brotherhood Stressed in the Rev. G. F. Bragg's Christmas Message

There is one thing which is clearly, and impressively, manifest at Christmas which should be the dominant note every day in the year; and such is our Christmas message. Everyone, high and low, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, seems kindly disposed, one toward the other, and bent on fun, merriment and good nature.

Christ was manifested for that very purpose the brotherhood idea. The opposite of such friendly manifestation is selfishness.

Selfishness is diametrically opposed to Christianity. The Christian must deny himself. The Christian must work for the whole and not the part. It is "Our Father," "give us" and "forgive us." And as surely as we follow the path marked out by Christ, we shall be happy.

This we can only do by knowing Him. If we know Him, we are bound to love Him. If we love Him, we are bound to bear witness and give testimony of the richness of his spiritual work within us.

By the increase of this spirit of kindliness the brotherhood grows, and the promised time that war shall be no more is hastened, and men are led to anticipate that glorious time when righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep.

God's great gift to the world was the eternal seed which must eventuate in the real brotherhood of all men, of all races and tongues.

(The Rev.) GEO. F. BRAGG, Jr.
St. James P.E. Church.

Warner T. McGuinn Extends Greetings

The AFRO-AMERICAN CO.:

Approaching the festive season incident to the close of the old and the birth of a new year, I pause to extend to you my very sincere wish for a joyful Christmas and a successful new year.

I cannot repress the desire to send you a word of congratulation upon the perfection of your most progressive, efficient, and militant organization.

Your contribution to the race during the past year has been significant and noteworthy and I indulge the hope that the AFRO may still continue foremost in gathering and publishing the news and in its uncompromising championship of the rights of a minority group.

WARNER T. McGUINN,
Attorney.

All Can Be Charitable Says the Rev. Mr. Hayes

The annual Christmas festival we are soon to celebrate will be hailed with rapturous acclaim by young and old everywhere, regardless of color, creed or language.

It will find, in anxious waiting, two groups; on one hand persons who are charitably inclined, ready to give presents, according to their ability, to promote the happiness of others regardless of their position in life; while on the other hand, those whose sole aim is to convert all to their comercial gain, without the slightest regard for others who have a just claim on their stored wealth.

It is to be earnestly hoped that those who may read this message will be found among the charitable group, who keep in remembrance the word of our Lord, who has declared that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and who also declared that so small a deed as that of giving a glass of cold water to the thirsty traveler should not go unrewarded.

It should always be borne in mind that it is not the value of what is given away, but rather the spirit in which it is bestowed. None are found too poor at this season to make a gift of some sort that will not fail of appreciation; it may be a smile, a sympathetic glance, a kind word, a friendly visit, a missive carrying a message of comfort to someone at the hospital, a garment of some sort to afford warmth in the cold, wintry days.

There are many ways in which your benevolence may find an appropriate outlet at this time. Let love be your prompting.

I am wishing most fervently that all readers of this journal may enjoy a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May our kind heavenly Father's blessing rest upon everyone who may chance to read these lines.

The Rev. DANIEL W. HAYS,
(Retired)

H.U. Prof. Won't Represent U.S. Christianity at Bombay

NEW YORK CITY. — Because he "has no confidence in the aspect of American Christianity" with which he is familiar, Prof. Howard Thurman will not represent it when he leads the first colored delegation ever to sit in council with Indians to Bombay next fall.

The director of Religious Education at Howard made this fact plain in a meeting in New York last week when the representatives met to complete plans for the journey, which will keep them abroad for upward of six months, and to attend a luncheon given by the India delegation of the national councils of the Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.

Speaking before that group Professor Thurman said that he is "interested in religion from the point of view of the needs of underprivileged peoples," and added that his study of Christianity shows that in its genesis it was "not a world religion but a technique of survival for an underprivileged minority."

Is Impotent

He clarified his objection to representing American Christianity, however, when he held that "its present state of impotency is a sad commentary upon the use to which Christianity has been put and a definite reflection upon its genius."

To Increase Information

The lecturer set at rest immediately any anxiety concerning the attitude which the delegation would take toward the Indian students with whom they will sit in conferences when he pointed out that the committee "will not leave America with the idea that they will be able to teach Indians anything they don't know; except possibly to increase their information as to what is really happening to Christianity in our land." He taken by most white people when they are lucky enough to get into "some of the cradles of intelligence."

A convincing speaker, Professor Thurman summed up the mission to India in a sentence when he said: "Going to India I propose to share with Indian students whatever secrets I may have learned about the meaning of life and to have them share the same thing with me; this can only be done in an atmosphere of friendliness, which atmosphere is guaranteed both by the nature and content of their invitation."

Capital Spotlight

By LOUIS R. LAUTIER

Christmas Squelch—In Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge's nephew wishes his uncle a Merry Christmas.

"Merry Christmas!" exclaimed Scrooge. "What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come then," retorted the nephew, gayly. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

* * *

Egg-Nog Recipe: Beat separately yolks and whites of six fresh eggs. Add ½ cup of sugar to the yolks while beating, and ½ cup of sugar to the whites after they have been beaten very stiff. Mix the egg whites with the yolks. Stir in 1 pint of rich cream and 1 pint of milk. Then add 1 pint of whiskey and 1 ounce of rum. Stir thoroughly, and serve very cold with grated nutmeg on each glass.

* * *

Orchids to the Howard and Lichtman Theatres for Christmas parties for poor kiddies. Tommy Myles's crew is tops in orchestras. Elmer Swann seems to have a new lease on life. The Bill Georges (Juanita) — he's the American vice consul—are sailing for Las Palmas on December 28.

* * *

A black and tan night spot in the U Street sector advertises no cover charge—but an admission fee is charged.

* * *

An ex-big shot in the numbers racket has the smart lads guessing whether he is broke or whether he just took a run out powder on his barbers. Deputy United States marshals supervised the setting out of his barber shop furnishings in U Street the other day. S.O.S. phone calls for him brought the response he was sleeping. He was operating his shop on a rental basis—so much a week from each barber for the use of his chairs—and some say he let himself be dispossessed purposely so as to get rid of his non-rent-paying barbers.

* * *

George Herriot, the pharmacist, and Hattie Holmes, a teacher, will take vows at Christmas. Dr. Peter Johnson is looking after patients of Dr. Arthur Curtis, who is ailing.

* * *

A sepia song and dance artist, Jeni Legon, has been signed by RKO. She will work with a sepia chorus in a black and white flicker, the ofay cast being headed by Ann Sothern, Wynne Gibson, Fred Keating and Gene Raymond.

EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

Send Your Embarrassing Moments to the Editor and They Will Be Published

One afternoon an acquaintance, whom I do not like, called me and asked me to go visit another friend with her. As I did not want to go with her, I said that my mother and I had planned to go to a picture show. Half an hour later, while my mother and I were sitting on the front porch, this acquaintance passed our house. Seeing us, she called out: "I hope you both enjoy the picture this afternoon." My mother looked surprised and exclaimed: "Why, I'm not going to any show. I have no intention of doing so, as I have company coming over to see me."

H. T. T.

I bought a long-desired book on sale. A day or so afterward a friend of mine dropped in to see me. She immediately asked to borrow the book. Reluctantly I consented, but said to her, "Be careful with it, as it is a special edition and I paid a good price for it." She was much impressed until she opened the book and saw the sale price marked on the flyleaf.

B. H. Y.

TALKING IT OVER

With WILLIAM N. JONES

THE AUDIENCE IS THE THING. Even though "Stevedore," the Peters and Sklar production playing here at the Garrick Theatre in the sophisticated Chestnut Street and Wanamaker section of this City of Brotherly Love, is one of the strongest, straightest hitting and emotion-provoking plays of the year, it is not the play which absorbs most interest, but the audience.

This was true in Philadelphia at least. It was so true that it was significant.

Nobody could see "Stevedore" without heaving of the breast. On Thursday night, for instance, while an almost nine-tenths white audience roared its applause as Jack Carter led a rebellior against Southern white labor exploitation, two white young women sitting near an AFRO-AMERICAN reporter, left the theatre in indignation, telling their associates that they would wait on the outside for them.

"No white people ever treated any colored people like that," one of them said.

"They can't take it," someone remarked as the young women left.

But other young white women and young white men must have bruised their hands applauding the "manhood" of the hero in a play that blurts out racial equality in almost every line.

Jack Carter of "Porgy" fame, of course, was a big portion of the show, but I believe most people who saw it will remember Canada Lee most. There was the man of the play. His muscular bronzed body was that of a Tarzan in strength, but appealing in all those subtle qualities which make womankind quiver.

Perhaps recent experiences which have given me a new interpretation of what artistic and emotional appeal bronze bodies can have, made the acting of Canada Lee loom in "Stevedore." Without taking anything from Carter, Lee seemed to me to be the real dramatic strength of the play.

It is a pity that "Stevedore" will probably not find many theatres to produce it below the Mason and Dixon Line. But it would be a fine thing if the interracial groups, as was done here in Philadelphia, should promote its appearance in every big Southern city. There is no question about its being true to life. There is no question but that it is a great play. It was written by a Southern and a Northern white man.

It would wake up many a young white man and woman and even though it would react violently on the feelings, many of them would wake up on the right side.

This was true in Philadelphia where young men and women of both races are coming to be brave enough to look truth in the face, and get a kick out of it.

* * * *

IN A LITTLE BACK ROOM at 1631 Bainbridge Street, C. Arthur Clark, one time prosperous hotel and tea room proprietor in North Philadelphia, sat on the side of a bed one day last week and told this writer that he had begun a fast which would last until certain demands he had made upon the people of Philadelphia and this country were carried out.

"I will live on plain tea until the death," he said, "unless my four-point demands are met."

A friend is arranging to have him taken to a local hospital and from there he will probably be taken to an institution if he persists in carrying out his vow.

But the story of C. Arthur Clark is interesting.

One day some four years ago he walked into his Bluebold Hotel and Tea Room, told his wife that he had just received a divine revelation from God, and walked out. Since then he has visited hundreds of the leading white and colored men and women in Philadelphia with what he call a map of the universe and a belief that he is Elijah and a new Son of God raised up to straighten out the troubled affairs of this world.

"They won't listen to me," he said, "but now I will make them listen."

So last Wednesday he began a fast which he says he will keep until the city of Philadelphia builds a huge electric "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men," sign on the parkway; until the Scottsboro boys are freed, until the Bok Award trustees award him their annual achievement prize and until the city turns over to him Convention Hall in which to deliver a world peace prophecy.

No doubt the psychiatrist will easily explain the mental state of C. Arthur Clark, but one cannot help wondering what will happen if he keeps his vow to fast to the death.

* * * *

PHILADELPHIA'S DR. CHARLES A. LEWIS, speaking at the Young People's City-wide Forum Sunday, stuck to his theory recently advanced that American colored folk are more susceptible to tuberculosis that American whites. Dr. Lewis's argument: Colored people have darker pigment and larger noses. The darker skins keep out protective rays of the sun and larger noses take in more air, therefore, more germs.

In other words, Dr. Lewis believes that colored folk breathing more cubic inches of possible germ-laden air, are likely to take in a larger number of germs and therefore more likely to take the disease. Similarly, because a larger number of sun rays penetrate the skins of whites than colored, he sets forth, they are more protected because of the value of sun rays.

Strange to say, we once heard a prominent physician expound the very opposite theory that because of the fact that some colored folk have larger nose cavities, they took in more cubic inches of oxygen laden air, and therefore ought, other conditions being equal, be less susceptible to tuberculosis.

When the doctors disagree the patient has a chance to do his own thinking, if not about the state of his own health, that of the doctors.

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This column wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Says Flat Nose, Dark Skin Give Colored Folk More TB

Dr. Charles A. Lewis Expounds Theory at Philly City-Wide Forum, Sunday.

PHILADELPHIA — That the larger flat nose and darker skin make colored people more susceptible to tuberbulosis as a group, is the theory of Dr. Charles A. Lewis, prominent Philadelphia physician, he told the Young People's City-Wide Forum, Sunday evening.

Dr. Lewis, who had talked on "Health, a Leading Factor in Racial Advancement," stuck to this theory when he was asked the direct question during the discussion period.

Gives Reason

The physician declared that his statement was based on the theory that with larger nose cavities, colored people took in more air per day than whites and that, with darker pigmentation, the helpful rays of the sun could not as easily penetrate their skins.

With larger volume of air breathed, they took in more germs and were therefore more exposed to the disease. He admitted, however, that he had not submitted his theory to such research that he could offer figures to prove it. "This is my story, however, and I stick to it," he said.

Compel Inspection

Pointing out that the city compelled us to have automobiles inspected at least twice yearly, he stated that it was much more important to the community that people have themselves examined as often as we do cars.

The race, he says, loses millions in our health differential. A great deal of the race prejudice which keeps the group as a whole segregated is because of our lower health index. He pointed out our inability to get insurance as a group on the same terms as those of whites as an example of what our health and mortality status was costing us.

Against Socialized Medicine

Dr. Lewis stated that he was expressing the sentiment of the medical profession when he answered a question as to his attitude toward the present trend toward socialized medicine.

"We believe that medicine and health should remain individual matters," he stated. He stated, however, that there was a trend in this direction, and that colored people would naturally take advantage of anything given away free.

Alexander Next Speaker

Raymond Pace Alexander, attorney, will be the forum speaker next Sunday evening. He will discuss "Fighting for Negro Justice." As guest artist at the meeting, Mrs. Ursula Curd, local school teacher and musician, played a piano solo.

Doings at Douglass

By K. C.

The sponsors of the Mask and Wig Club have decided to present a second performance of "Everyman," by popular request.

The second rendition will be on Christmas Night in addition to the Yuletide services.

The Mask and Wig Club and the Choral Club members were complimented by the principal and the sponsors, Miss Buchanan and Mr. Wilson, for their co-operation and ability in the initial presentation.

It was Bertha Rosedom of Class 11-A, who sang the solo of "O Holy Night" in the chant preceding the medieval pageant.

The Mask and Wig members gave a reception, Wednesday afternoon, to honor their first big successful production of the school year.

Mrs. Fernandis Writes

Mrs. Sarah Collins Fernandis wrote to Mr. Pratt as follows: "I am very observant of new constructive trends in our community life, and I was deeply impressed with the dramatic presentation which the Mask and Wig Club of your school offered, Friday.

"My congratulations are to the club and their directors for the fine performance and for what seems to me infinitely more commendable the high type of their selected drama.

"The musical part of the program was a refreshing introduction of the Christmas spirit."

The graduating seniors have decided to present a pageant written by Emil Gibbs, Robert Maddox and Alice Harris. The writing was supervised by Miss Mae Miller.

Mr. McDaniels Speaks

Gough McDaniels, at the request of the Current History Club, spoke to students at Coppin Normal School, Friday, concerning the present European situation.

Members from Classes 11A1, 11A2 and 11A3 visited Walter's Art Gallery and Washington's Monument with Miss Thelma Johnson, English teacher.

The students are planning to give baskets to the poor this Christmas. Messrs. Gillis, Callas, Nelson and Collick are the committee for arrangement. Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. Collick are the committee for the distribution of the baskets