

A Modern Shepherd to His Flock

THE EDITOR AND HIS PEOPLE. Editorials by William Allen White. Selected by Helen Ogden Mahin. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.50.

THERE are two kinds of people — specialists and generalists. The former predominate; in fact, the production of specialists appear to be the end of our major educational processes and an inevitable by-product of our industrial processes. A good many of the specialists die rich; but, after all, it is the smattering of generalists which provides humanity with its best loved and remembered figures. That is because they defend the House of Life against those who would take it apart and use the material for an infinite number of minute kennels, each too small to shelter the human soul.

Every great editor has been a generalist, for news wells up from life itself. A proper newspaper not only mirrors its environment, but measures the conscience, intelligence and aspirations of its readers. Since every community has more of these than appear on the surface, an editor who draws inner meanings from events can make an interesting paper almost anywhere. Especially in Kansas, or even in Kansas — as you choose.

Leave it for the future to say whether the best of William Allen White is in the files of the *Emporia Gazette* or in his books or magazine articles. I think the *Gazette* wins; certainly there is meat and wine enough in this volume to justify Brother White's reputation for industry, wit, good humor and evangelical fervor. For the editor of the *Emporia Gazette* is no mere closet philosopher. Instead, he takes his readers by the buttonhole and bids them be brave, moral, charitable and genuine, as the situation of the moment requires.

These attentions might bore the good people of Emporia except for Editor White's unfailing good nature and his willingness to confess error. His originality is as great, too, as his sincerity. Between sermons he gives them joy by celebrating the commonplaces of Kansas and painting word pictures of local characters.

Kansas is not a land of many monuments; but it is a safe wager that Emporia will some day unveil one to William Allen White. When that happens, readers of Miss Mahin's volume will understand the inwardness of that tribute.

ARTHUR POUND.