

"THE NEW NEGRO" AND THE OLD.

Of the making of books about Negroes there is no end in sight. So much attention has been given to Carl Van Vechten's "Nigger Heaven" that slight has been lost of books that have a substantial and permanent interest. In this class come the books of Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

To one interested in the literature dealing with the Negro, Dr. Woodson's "Negro Orators and Their Orations" (to mention one of his later books), deserves the most painstaking perusal. The sadists, the amateurs, the strikers, the circles and various clubs of books and literary lovers might well devote some attention to "Negro Orators and Their Orations." It is a view of the Negro of the most part, and serves to correct an unfortunate impression created by Dr. A. L. Locke's "The New Negro."

Anyone of even superficial literary and critical equipment who will read both books cannot fail to reach the conclusion that Dr. Locke has not after all discovered a fundamentally "new Negro." Dr. Woodson's book of orations shows that the old Negro—if we may use a term in contradistinction to Dr. Locke's "New Negro"—wanted a "place in the sun"; that he was striving for freedom, truth and light; that, though he was deprived of the opportunities of culture and education which the new Negro now enjoys and of which he not infrequently makes flamboyant displays, the old Negro improved to the utmost the meager and inadequate opportunities which he did have, and shows no mean skill in the use of the English language as a vehicle of thought.—Washington Tribune.