

# NEW NEGRO DISCUSSED BY WOMAN

**Mrs. Keesecker Addresses Cornell Woman's Club of Cleveland.**

CLEVELAND, March 26—"Among well read and intelligent whites little is known of a group that might be termed 'The New Negro,' a group of the American Negro that is characterized not only by education and culture of the first rank but by a definite creative expression that has found its flowering in the field of art and letters," declared Mrs. Raymond P. Keesecker in an address on Wednesday at a dinner meeting of the Cornell Woman's Club of Cleveland, composed of white women graduates of Cornell University.

The speaker discussed the work of Countee Cullen and that of Langston Hughes as representative of the work of the younger Negro poets of the group, and the work of the latter as especially noteworthy in its use of basic Negro themes. Attention was called to Hughes' new novel.

Mrs. Keesecker spoke of the work of Richard B. Harrison in "The Green Pastures," saying "It is not an anomaly in the field of drama but it is distinctive in a field where the Negro is much at home and is especially gifted." The work of Paul Robeson was mentioned as well as the contribution that the Negro will undoubtedly make to the

future of the drama. Brief mention was made of many well-known Negroes and their contributions to racial progress. Walter White, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois were especially mentioned. The influence of Negro newspapers and such magazines as Opportunity and The Crisis were spoken of. The place "The New Negro" is coming to fill in contemporary American civilization was pointed out.

The speaker then told of her work at the Woodland center, a settlement house in Cleveland. This group, university- and college-trained, is composed of professional and business people interested in drama and the opportunity to give expression to that interest.

"In addition," she declared, "we are concerned in the drama as a medium by which the prejudice and ignorance of otherwise intelligent white people may be broken down. We have interested the English departments of several Negro colleges and have invited them to submit plays for our use, one of which has been accepted and will be produced at a later date."