

There are many young, small neighborhood forums where nearly everything is volunteered and the expenses are limited to printing the program and paying the janitor, and the casual contributions taken at the meetings suffice to meet these small bills. On the other hand, there are well established community forums, exerting an influence for

MEDICAL C. SMITH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
LITTLE BUILDING, 80 Boylston Street
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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FIFTEEN YEARS
OF THE
FORD HALL FORUM
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

A panorama of speakers with a message.
An array of the vital topics of our time.
Fifteen sample forum programs for a season.
The meaning of the forum idea.

Speakers have called it
"THE GREATEST AUDIENCE IN AMERICA"
Founded February 23, 1908

The Forum Chairman

By HAROLD MARSHALL
*Originator and Director of the Melrose
Community Meetings*

with
SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

By GEORGE W. COLEMAN
*Founder and Director of the
Ford Hall Forum,
Boston, Mass.*



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FORD HALL FORUM

GEORGE W. COLEMAN.....Director
ALICE H. SAMSON.....Executive Secretary

OFFICE:

Little Building, 80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts

THE FORD HALL FORUM What It Means

Acting under the will of DANIEL SHARP FORD, proprietor of *The Youth's Companion*, who died December 24, 1899, the Boston Baptist Social Union established the Ford Hall Sunday Evening Meetings, now known all over the country as the Ford Hall Forum. The meetings have been continued without interruption every season since they were established, February 23, 1908. The Ford Hall Forum has not only become a conspicuous public platform and developed to a remarkable degree the technique of open discussion of vital questions under orderly restraint, but it has also served as the inspiration and model for hundreds of forums scattered throughout the country.

Mr. GEORGE W. COLEMAN, an active member of the Boston Baptist Social Union, conceived the idea of holding these meetings, persuaded the Baptist Social Union to undertake the enterprise, and from the first has been the Director and Chairman.

Although carried on under religious auspices, the Ford Hall Forum platform is kept free from all religious, class and race prejudice. For eight years the meetings were supported entirely by the Ford funds. Now the expenses are met by the voluntary contributions of those who attend, supplemented by gifts from interested friends, including many individual members of the Boston Baptist Social Union, that organization continuing to grant the forum the free use of the halls in the Ford Building.

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FORD HALL FORUM PROGRAMS

1908—FIRST SEASON

- Feb. 23—HENRY ABRAHAMS, EDWIN D. MEAD, C. C. BARRY, ROBERT A. WOODS. (Opening night.)
- Mar. 1—Prof. CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH, "The Brotherhood of Man."
- " 8—Rabbi SAMUEL SCHULMAN, D.D., "What the Jew Has Done for the World and What the World Has Done to the Jew."
- " 15—Rev. LEIGHTON WILLIAMS, D.D., "The Democratic Gospel."
- " 22—Rev. THOMAS R. SLICER, D.D., "Three Ways of Doing Good."
- " 29—Prof. THOMAS C. HALL, D.D., "The Relation of Modern Christian Life to the Social Problem."

1908-9—SECOND SEASON

- Nov. 1—Prof. THOMAS NIXON CARVER, LL.D., "A Man and His Vote."
- " 8—Miss ELIZABETH S. COLTON, "The People and Problems of India."
- " 15—Prof. WILLIAM SALTER, "Tolstoi's Story of 'A Soul's Resurrection.'"
- " 22—Rev. O. P. GIFFORD, D.D., Rev. PHILO W. SPRAGUE, Rev. GEORGE WILLIS COOKE, Rev. DANIEL EVANS, D.D. Symposium: "Socialism as I See It."
- " 29—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "Are Our National Standards Ethical?"
- Dec. 6—Prof. BORDEN PARKER BOWNE, "Life—And a Good Life."
- " 13—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "The Tyranny of Majorities."
- " 20—LOUIS D. BRANDEIS, "The Ethics of Savings Bank Insurance."
- " 27—Rev. ALBERT PARKER FITCH, D.D., "Christmas as a Social Institution."
- Jan. 3—LINCOLN STEFFENS, "Other People's Graft."
- " 10—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "The State and Morality."
- " 17—KEIR HARDIE, M.P., "Reforms Accomplished by the British Labor Party."
- " 24—Rev. CHARLES STELZLE, "Why the Church Cannot Accept Socialism."

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An inner group called the Ford Hall Folks, comprising over four hundred paid annual members, is the back-bone of this forum. Although as variegated as the colors of the rainbow in its personnel, the closest fellowship is enjoyed and the utmost harmony prevails alike in social gatherings and in the business meetings.

Miss MARY CAROLINE CRAWFORD, widely-known author and expert publicity representative for social, civic and religious organizations, for thirteen years gave her talent and energy to the executive management of the Ford Hall Forum. Miss ALICE H. SAMSON, who has been associated with Mr. Coleman in the forum work from the beginning, has succeeded Miss Crawford as Executive Secretary.

The following Ford Hall programs, presented in chronological order, testify as to the wide range of public interest included in the topics and also to the great diversity of speakers enlisted.

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- Jan. 31—JAMES O. FAGAN, "The Man, the Accident, and the Railroad."
Feb. 7—Prof. S. L. JOSHI, "The Awakening of the Orient and What It Means to the Occident."
" 14—W. N. HARTSHORN, "The Life of Daniel Sharp Ford."
Col. EDWARD ANDERSON, "The Man and the Statesman."
" 21—Mrs. FLORENCE KELLEY, "New England's Lost Leadership in Child Labor Legislation."
" 23—Rabbi SAMUEL SCHULMAN, D.D., "Things That Separate Men and Things that Unite Them."
Mar. 7—Prof. CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH, "Working with the People."
" 14—HORACE FLETCHER, "Feeding for Efficiency."
" 21—JOHN Z. WHITE, "Unemployment: Its Cause and Cure."
" 23—J. ADAMS PUFFER, "The Boy and the Gang."
Apr. 4—FRANKLIN H. WENTWORTH, "The Woman's Portion."
Mrs. MARION CRAIG WENTWORTH, "Votes for Women."
" 11—GEORGE W. COLEMAN, "The Religion of the Crowd."

1909-10—THIRD SEASON

- Nov. 7—FREDERICK VAN EEDEN, M.D., "Religion and Business."
" 14—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "The Fellowship of the Common Life."
" 21—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "The Moral Unrest of Our Time."
" 28—Dr. ALEXANDER IRVINE, "The Church and the Workingman."
Dec. 5—Prof. WILLIAM SALTER, "Bernard Shaw as a Social Critic."
" 12—Rev. JOHN HOPKINS DENISON, "When Is Marriage a Success?"
" 19—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Religion of the Common Life."
" 26—Rev. O. P. GIFFORD, D.D., "Holidays and Holy Days."
Jan. 2—Prof. EDWARD A. ROSS, LL.D., "Commercialism."
" 9—Rt. Rev. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, S.T.D., LL.D., "Has the Church Failed?"
" 16—HENRY STERLING, "The Case for the Workingman."
" 23—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "Reforms and Reformers."

- Jan. 30—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "The Transition from the Present to a Co-operative Order of Society."
Feb. 6—Dean SHALLER MATHEWS, D.D., "Can the Modern Man be Religious?"
" 13—JONATHAN THAYER LINCOLN, "The Case for the Employer."
" 20—JOSEPH FELS, "The English Budget and What It Means."
" 27—Rabbi SAMUEL SCHULMAN, D.D., "The Hebrew Prophets: The Creators of Modern Religion."
Mar. 6—Prof. EDWARD A. STEINER, "The Search for Brotherhood."
" 13—JOHN SPARGO, "The Life and Work of Karl Marx."

1910-11—FOURTH SEASON

- Oct. 16—HENRY GEORGE, Jr., "Has the Single Tax Got Anywhere?"
" 23—Dr. ALEXANDER IRVINE, "The Church and the Democratic Ideal."
" 30—ALFRED H. BROWN, "The Modern Drama as a Social Force."
Nov. 6—Rev. ARTHUR H. SMITH, D.D., "When East Meets West."
" 13—Rev. GEORGE R. LUNN, D.D., "What Happened in Schenectady."
" 20—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "The Church and the Social Awakening."
" 27—Rev. ALFRED W. WISHART, "The Spiritual Significance of Secular Vocations."
Dec. 4—ALFRED SUDEKUM, Ph.D., "The Social Movement in Germany."
" 11—Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, D.D., "Why I Believe in Immortality."
" 18—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Man and Woman."
" 25—Rev. O. P. GIFFORD, D.D., "The Birth of the Social Idea."
Jan. 1—Rev. SAMUEL ZANE BATTEN, D.D., "The Man at the Bottom."
" 8—Rt. Rev. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, S.T.D., LL.D., "What Religion Can Do for a Man."
" 15—Rt. Rev. CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, D.D., LL.D., "Wealth—Productive, Predatory, and Parasitic."
" 22—Pres. W. H. P. FAUNCE, D.D., LL.D., "Education without Schools."
" 29—Rev. HERBERT S. BIGELOW, "Stealing as a Fine Art."
Feb. 5—Rev. THOMAS I. GASSON, S.J., "The Dangers of Socialism."

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- Feb. 12—W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, Ph.D., "The World Problem of the Color Line."
 " 19—DE WITT G. WILCOX, M.D., "Health, Hygiene, and Happiness."
 " 26—MEYER BLOOMFIELD, Mrs. SUSAN W. FITZ GERALD, EDWIN D. MEAD, JAMES P. MUNROE, MORRISON I. SWIFT. Symposium: "What These Meetings Have Done for Boston."
 Mar. 5—Rev. JAMES A. FRANCIS, D.D., "The Get-Together Basis in Religion."
 " 12—J. W. BENGOUGH, "The Sacredness of Property."
 " 19—Mrs. ELLEN H. RICHARDS, "Does the Increased Cost of Living Mark a Social Advance?"
 " 26—Mrs. HELEN L. GRENFELL, "What Women Have Done in Colorado with the Vote."
 Apr. 2—Rabbi MAURICE H. HARRIS, Ph.D., "The Bible as Literature."
 " 9—NORMAN HAPGOOD, "The Social Function of the Press."

1911-12—FIFTH SEASON

- Oct. 15—Dean GEORGE HODGES, D.D., LL.D., "What is the Matter with the Church."
 MORRISON I. SWIFT, "What is the Matter with the People Outside the Church?"
 " 22—Mrs. MAUD WOOD PARK, "Woman the World Around."
 " 29—ALBERT E. WINSHIP, LL.D., "Eliminating the Hoodlum Element Among Boys."
 Nov. 5—FREDERIC C. HOWE, Ph.D., "How to Make Boston Efficient, Comfortable and Beautiful."
 " 12—EDWIN D. MEAD, "The United States as a World Power."
 " 19—Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, D.D., "Social and Economic Conditions in England."
 " 26—Pres. DAVID STARR JORDAN, LL.D., "The Case Against War."
 Dec. 3—Pres. SAMUEL C. MITCHELL, LL.D., "Racial Adjustment."
 " 10—Rt. Rev. CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, D.D., LL.D., "The Church and Social Justice."
 " 17—Pres. W. H. P. FAUNCE, D.D., LL.D., "The Man and the Machine."
 " 24—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "The Nation's Human Resources."
 " 31—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "Wanted: A Moral Renaissance."
 Jan. 7—NORMAN HAPGOOD, "The Significance of Insurgency."

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- Jan. 14—Mrs. GLENDOWER EVANS, Miss LEONORA O'REILLY, "The Working Woman and the State."
 " 21—WILLIAM T. ELLIS, LL.D., "America's Influence Upon the Older Nations."
 " 28—Prof. JAMES HERVEY HYSLOP, LL.D., "Science and Immortality."
 Feb. 4—Rev. JOHN A. RYAN, D.D., "The Living Wage."
 " 11—HARRY PHILLIPS, "The Outlook for Temperance."
 " 18—RAY STANNARD BAKER, "The Progressive Spirit in Politics."
 " 25—Dr. CHARLES FLEISCHER, "Getting to be Human."
 Mar. 3—Rev. JAMES H. FRANKLIN, D.D., "The Message of Christianity to Socialists."
 " 10—Rabbi SAMUEL SCHULMAN, D.D., "The Claim of the Decalogue on the Modern Man."
 " 17—JAMES SCHERMERHORN, "The Ethics of a Newspaper Man."
 " 24—Mrs. EMILY MONTAGUE BISHOP, "Scenes from the Senate."
 " 31—STANTON COIT, Ph.D., "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"
 Apr. 7—JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS, "The New Schism in Socialism."
 " 14—Dean SHALER MATHEWS, D.D., "Evolution and Religion."

1912-13—SIXTH SEASON

- Oct. 13—Prof. THOMAS C. HALL, D.D., "The Morals of Anarchy and Socialism."
 " 20—Rabbi MAURICE H. HARRIS, Ph.D., "The Function of the Jew in the World's Economy."
 " 27—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "Christianity and Socialism: Their Larger Parallels."
 Nov. 3—ALFRED W. MC CANN, "How Shall the People Get Pure Food?"
 " 10—Prof. HENRY C. VEDDER, D.D., "Concerning Law and Order."
 " 17—CLIFFORD G. ROE, "The Un-Social Evil."
 " 24—Judge BEN B. LINDSEY, "Giving the Boy a Square Deal."
 Dec. 1—Baroness VON SUTTNER, "International Friendship Instead of War."
 " 8—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "The Moral Significance of the New Politics."
 " 15—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "The Warfare Against Poverty."

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- Dec. 22—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "How Much of the New Order is in the Present?"
- " 29—Prof. CHARLES PROSPERO FAGNANI, D.D., "God and Democracy."
- Jan. 5—Mrs. ANNA GARLIN SPENCER, "Are the Public Schools Democratic?"
- Miss FRANCES G. CURTIS and ISAAC HARRIS, "The Local Situation."
- " 12—Prof. VIDA D. SCUDDER, "The Moral Asset of the Class Struggle."
- " 19—YAMEI KIN, M.D., "The Awakening of China."
- " 26—JOSEPH FELS, "Just Taxation the Hope of the World."
- Feb. 2—Rev. JOHN A. RYAN, D.D., "The Right and Wrong of the Labor Union."
- " 9—EDWARD A. FILENE, "The Growing Pains of Democracy."
- " 16—STEWART ANDERSON, "As an Immigrant Sees It."
- " 23—Birthday Night. (Special program.)
- Mar. 2—Dr. J. A. MACDONALD, "War and the Human Breed."
- " 9—Prof. EARL BARNES, "A Successful Failure: A Study of Robert Owen."
- " 16—Rev. LEVI M. POWERS, D.D., "Some Suggestions from Germany as to Necessary Steps in Social Legislation."
- " 23—Rev. NICHOLAS VAN DER PYL, "Lessons from Recent Industrial Outbreaks."
- " 30—JOHN COWPER POWYS, "The Social Message of Modern English Writers."
- Apr. 6—Prof. COLIN A. SCOTT, Ph.D., Miss MARY MULRY, Miss LOTTA C. CLARK, "Training for Leadership."
- " 13—Rev. O. P. GIFFORD, D.D., "The Social Value of Free Speech."

1913-14—SEVENTH SEASON

- Oct. 19—JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS, "Before Socialism—What?"
- " 26—Prof. EARL BARNES, "The Family of the Future."
- Nov. 2—Miss MARY ANTIN, "The American Gospel Day by Day."
- " 9—GEORGE W. HOPKINS, "Advertising and Economics."
- GEORGE B. GALLUP, "Advertising and Democracy."
- WILLIAM SHAW, LL.D., "Advertising and Religion."

- Nov. 16—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "What's Wrong with the Jew?"
- " 23—Rev. PAUL MOORE STRAYER, D.D., "How to Socialize a Competitive World."
- " 30—PETER CLARK MACFARLANE, "The Courage to Attack."
- Dec. 7—NORMAN HARGOOD, "The Modern Drama as a Social Force."
- " 14—Miss MARY P. FOLLETT, "The Social Centre and the Democratic Ideal."
- JOHN LOVEJOY ELLIOTT, Ph.D., "The Social Centre and Direct Action."
- " 21—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Walt Whitman: Prophet and Democrat."
- " 28—Rev. ALLYN K. FOSTER, "Can Religion Be Made Scientific?"
- Jan. 4—Bishop John W. HAMILTON, D.D., "Is It Fair?"
- " 11—Miss MARGARET SLATTERY, "A Forward Step Which Has Been Successfully Taken in Fitchburg."
- Mrs. SUSAN W. FITZ GERALD, "A Fundamental Difficulty in the Way of Improving Boston's Schools."
- " 18—Rt. Rev. CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, D.D., LL.D., "Why I Work for the Single Tax."
- " 25—Prof. ALBION W. SMALL, LL.D., "The Strength and Weakness of Socialism."
- Feb. 1—HORACE J. BRIDGES, "The Gospel of Ellen Key."
- " 8—Prof. EDWARD A. STEINER, "The International Mind and the Inter-racial Heart."
- " 15—HUGH CABOT, M.D., "The Problems of Sex Education."
- DE WITT G. WILCOX, M.D., "The Scourge of Venereal Disease."
- Rev. EDWARD CUMMINGS, "The Responsibilities of Parenthood."
- " 22—CHARLES BRANDON BOOTH, "The Case for the Prisoner."
- Mar. 1—LESLIE WILLIS SPRAGUE, "Tolstoi, the Man."
- " 8—Mrs. MARY CHURCH TERRELL, "Uncle Sam and the Sons of Ham."
- " 15—Prof. HARRY F. WARD, "The Challenge of Socialism to Christianity."
- " 22—Rev. FRANK O. HALL, D.D., "The Moral Law."
- " 29—JOHN COWPER POWYS, "The Economic Aspects of Woman Suffrage."
- Apr. 5—A. J. PHILPOTT, "The Press and Society."
- GEORGE PERRY MORRIS, "Some Ethical Aspects of Editorial Work."
- " 12—Prof. THOMAS C. HALL, D.D., "Religion and Social Revolution."

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Apr. 19—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "Is the Woman-Movement Going to Save Society?"

1914-15—EIGHTH SEASON

- Oct. 18—WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING, "The Message of Syndicalism."
" 25—Miss MARY ANTIN, "God and His World."
Nov. 1—Prof. EARL BARNES, "What Work Should Give Us Besides Bread."
" 8—Miss MARGARET SLATTERY, "Energy—Undirected and Misdirected."
" 15—JOHN LOVEJOY ELLIOTT, Ph.D., "The Child and the City."
" 22—LESLIE WILLIS SPRAGUE, "Will Democracy Endure?"
" 29—Mrs. MAUD BALLINGTON BOOTH, "After Prison—What?"
Dec. 6—STANTON COIT, Ph.D., "Is Civilization a Disease?"
" 13—NORMAN HAPGOOD, "The Military Ideal."
" 20—BOUCK WHITE, "If Christ Were to Come on Christmas Day."
" 27—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Militancy and Morals."
Jan. 3—Rev. GEORGE A. GORDON, D.D., "A Message for the New Year."
" 10—Rabbi HARRY LEVI, "The New Morality."
" 17—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "From Absolute Monarchy to Pure Democracy in Industry."
" 24—Rev. JOHN W. ROSS, "The Credit Side."
" 31—Prof. WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, D.D., "The Economic Basis of Democracy."
Feb. 7—Rev. JOHN A. RYAN, D.D., "Minimum Wage Laws and Their Operation in America."
" 14—LOUIS WALLIS, "The Newer Issues in Democracy."
" 21—S. K. RATCLIFFE, "Classes and Masses in the England of Today."
" 28—PETER WITT, "A City Finding Itself."
Mar. 7—Rabbi SAMUEL SCHULMAN, D.D., "What Constitutes a Good Jew?"
" 14—JOHN SPARGO, "Socialism and the War."
" 21—Frau ROSIKA SCHWIMMER, "Women and War."
" 28—Prof. FRANK O'HARA, "What Irish Immigration Has Done for America."
Apr. 4—Prof. CHARLES PROSPERO FAGNANI, D.D., "The War, the World, and the Kingdom of God."

Apr. 11—Prof. HARRY F. WARD, "What Constitutes a Good American?"

1915-16—NINTH SEASON

- Oct. 17—LOUIS D. BRANDEIS, "Zionism and the Aims of Jewish Democracy."
" 24—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "Is War Cureless?"
" 31—Hon. FRANCIS NEILSON, M.P., "Sign-Posts of Democracy."
Nov. 7—Rev. SAMUEL ZANE BATTEN, D.D., "Is God or Man to Blame?"
" 14—MORRIS HILLQUIT, "Some Current Economic and Political Problems."
" 21—LOUIS F. POST, "Government Intervention in Idleness."
" 28—JAMES P. MAGENIS, "Some Lessons Learned from the Law."
Dec. 5—HENRY TURNER BAILEY, "Socializing the Public Schools."
" 12—NORMAN HAPGOOD, "Shall Birth Control Be Discussed?"
" 19—Prof. EDWARD A. STEINER, "Conservation Versus Immigration."
" 26—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "The United States: Pacemaker or Peacemaker?"
Jan. 2—Rabbi MAURICE H. HARRIS, Ph.D., "America's Exposition and Europe's War: A Contrast."
" 9—HUTCHINS HAPGOOD, "What Is an Anarchist?"
" 16—Rev. J. HOWARD MELISH, "Humanity First."
" 23—Hon. GEORGE L. RECORD, "The High Cost of Living: Its Cause and Remedy."
" 30—S. K. RATCLIFFE, "The War and the Outlook for Democracy."
Feb. 6—WOODS HUTCHINSON, M.D., "The Medical Treatment of Crime."
" 13—Prof. SCOTT NEARING, "Working and Owning for a Living."
" 20—ALFRED W. MARTIN, "What Are We Here For?"
" 27—Prof. BRUNO ROSELLI, "Italian Immigration After the War."
Mar. 5—Rev. WILLIAM HARMAN VAN ALLEN, S.T.D., "The Discipline of Struggle."
" 12—ANDRÉ TRIDON, "An Inside View of Mexico."
" 19—Prof. ARTHUR HOLMES, "What of the Backward Child?"
" 26—Mrs. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN, "What Feminism Is—and Isn't."

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- Apr. 2—Rev. HENRY F. COPE, D.D., "The Family and the Moral Crisis."
 " 9—Rev. ABRAHAM M. RIHBANY, "Some Phases of Democracy."

1916-17—TENTH SEASON

- Nov. 5—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "The International Mind."
 " 12—JAMES J. WALSH, M.D., "The Happiest Era in Human History."
 " 19—Rev. WILLIAM NORMAN GUTHRIE, "The Problem of a New American Patriotism."
 " 26—ROGER W. BABSON, "Labor's Only Hope."
 Dec. 3—Rev. EDWARD F. SANDERSON, "Something to Tie to."
 " 10—RICHARD A. FEISS, "Personal Relationship in Business Administration."
 " 17—Miss KATE BARNARD, "Woman and Destiny."
 " 24—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "An American Sir Galahad."
 " 31—Miss MARGARET SLATTERY, "Making a Living and a Life."
 Jan. 7—Hon. GEORGE R. LUNN, "The Progress of Democracy."
 " 14—Prof. HUGH BLACK, D.D., "The Meaning of Life."
 " 21—Mrs. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN, "Our Brains and What Ails Them."
 " 28—IVY L. LEE, "What Is to Become of Our Railroads?"
 Feb. 4—Rev. JOHN A. RYAN, D.D., "Fallacies of the Feminist Movement."
 " 11—EDWIN MARKHAM, "The Social Vision of Jesus."
 " 18—RICHARD W. HALE, "The Truth About Property: Who Uses It?"
 " 25—WINTER RUSSELL, "Civic Strife or Co-operation?"
 Mar. 4—GERALD STANLEY LEE, "The President and the Fate of the World: An Inauguration Day Greeting from Ford Hall to the White House."
 " 11—Rabbi H. W. ETTIELSON, "From Persecution Through Toleration to Brotherhood."
 " 18—GEORGE W. NASMYTH, Ph.D., "Nietzsche and the European War."

1917-18—ELEVENTH SEASON

- Oct. 28—SHERMAN L. WHIPPLE and Hon. HERBERT PARKER, "Initiative and Referendum."

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- Nov. 4—HARVEY W. WILEY, M.D., "Whiskey and Tobacco."
 " 11—Miss HELEN LOUISE JOHNSON, "What Thrift Means."
 " 18—S. P. CHUAN, "China and America."
 " 25—Prof. HENRY R. PATTENGILL, "Made in America."
 Dec. 2—Rev. HAROLD MARSHALL, D.D., "Self-Sacrifice vs. Self-Preservation."
 " 9—Mrs. BERTHA KUNZ BAKER, Reading of Bjornsen's Play, "Beyond Human Might."
 " 16—Prof. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, D.D., "A Religion for War Time."
 " 23—JAMES J. WALSH, M.D., "What is Progress?"
 " 30—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Federalism and World Organization."
 Jan. 6—Rev. FRED P. HAGGARD, D.D., "The New Spirit in Russia."
 " 13—P. F. SULLIVAN, "What the Bay State Railway Has to Say for Itself."
 " 20—FELIX SHAY, "Why Socialistic Communities Always Fail as Such."
 " 27—MOORFIELD STOREY, "What Law Is and Why We Need It."
 Feb. 3—B. R. BAUMGARDT, "The Romance of Human Progress."
 " 10—Lient. BRUNO ROSELLI, "Some Lessons Learned at the Italian Front."
 " 17—Miss MARGARET SLATTERY, "American Youth and the New Democracy."

1918-19—TWELFTH SEASON

- Oct. 20—ARTHUR GLEASON, "What America Can Learn from the British Labor Party's Program."
 " 27—Miss MARY VAN KLEECK, "Women and War Work."
 Nov. 3—GEORGE W. NASMYTH, Ph.D., "The Growing Power of the World's Labor Forces."
 " 10—ALBERT RHYS WILLIAMS, "The Bolsheviks and the Labor Problem."
 " 17—NORMAN THOMAS, "What Shall We Do with Victory?"
 " 24—PHILIP WHITWELL WILSON, "Britain's Problems, Including Ireland and India."
 Dec. 1—JOHN COWPER POWYS, "The Effect of the War on the Democratic Ideal."

1919-20—THIRTEENTH SEASON

- Oct. 19—Prof. BRUNO ROSELLI, "The Present Situation in Italy."

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- Oct. 26—Prof. EARL BARNES, "Shall the State Control Our Ideas?"
- Nov. 2—Rev. CHARLES A. EATON, D.D., "New Factors in Business."
- " 9—Rev. JOHN HOWARD MELISH, "New Morals for Old Sins."
- " 16—Dean CHARLES R. BROWN, D.D., "Why I Am Not a Socialist."
- " 23—Prof. HARRY F. WARD, "The New Motive in Industry."
- " 30—EVERETT DEAN MARTIN, "A Twentieth Century View of Evolution."
- Dec. 7—Judge A. C. BACKUS, "What Society Owes the Erring."
- " 14—JOHN A. FITCH, "If Not Strikes—What?"
- " 21—Mrs. MARGARET DELAND, "The Dull Job."
- " 28—Miss JEANNETTE RANKIN, "What the Non-Partisan League Has Meant to American Politics."
- Jan. 4—JOSEPH ERNEST McAFEE, "Is Religion Failing in America?"
- " 11—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "Whence, Why, Whither: A Survey of the Times."
- " 18—ALGERNON S. CRAPSEY, S.T.D., "The Ethics of Jesus as a Basis of the New Social Order."
- " 25—EDMUND VANCE COOKE, "The Religion of Democracy."
- Feb. 1—Rt. Rev. CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, D.D., L.L.D., "The Challenge of the Times."
- " 8—GEORGE CREEL, "The Irish Question from the American View-Point."
- " 15—Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE, Ph.D., "How to Americanize and How Not to Americanize."
- " 22—Motion Picture Forum: "The Miracle Man."
- " 29—Miss MARGARET SLATTERY, "I Go to War—Afterwards."
- Mar. 7—Rabbi JUDAH L. MAGNES, Ph.D., "The Old America and the New."
- " 14—HARLAN EUGENE READ, "Shall Inheritances be Abolished?"
- " 21—MORRISON I. SWIFT and ROGER W. BABSON, "Should Socialism be Suppressed?"
- " 28—Prof. EDWARD A. STEINER, "The New World: Who Wants It and How to Get It."

1920-21—FOURTEENTH SEASON

- Oct. 17—Presidential Night. RICHARD KITCHELT, Mrs. SUSAN W. FITZ GERALD and GEORGE E. ROEWER, Jr., "How I Shall Vote and Why."
- " 24—Prof. HENRY W. L. DANA, "Labor Conditions in England, France and Germany."

There are many young, ... nearly everything is volunteered and the expenses are limited to printing the program and paying the janitor, and the casual contributions taken at the meetings suffice to meet these small bills. On the other hand, there are well established community forums, exerting an influence for

- Oct. 31—Prof. HARRY F. WARD, "Civil Liberty in the United States."
- Nov. 7—TOYOKICHI IYENAGA, Ph.D., "Is There a Yellow Peril?"
- " 14—PHILIP CABOT, "The Spirit of the Employer." WHITING WILLIAMS, "The Mind of the Worker."
- " 21—NORMAN HAPGOOD, "The Next Administration."
- " 28—Mrs. MARIETTA L. JOHNSON, "Education for the New Age."
- Dec. 5—Bishop FRANCIS J. MC CONNELL, "The Church and Labor."
- " 12—W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, Ph.D., "The Future of the Darker Races."
- " 19—Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, "What Shall We Think of the Bolsheviki?"
- " 26—Prof. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, "Has America Any Ideals?"
- Jan. 2—ARTHUR D. REES, "Financial Imperialism and the Way Out."
- " 9—Prof. NATHANIEL SCHMIDT, "The Goal of Civilization."
- " 16—WALTER W. LIGGETT, "The Future of the American Press."
- " 23—Mrs. BEATRICE FORBES ROBERTSON-HALE, "The Women of the Future."
- " 30—Prof. DAVID D. VAUGHAN, "The World Sweep of Democracy."
- Feb. 6—EVERETT DEAN MARTIN, "The Psychology of the Crowd Mind."
- " 13—Rev. WILLARD SCOTT, D.D., "The Coming New World."
- " 20—Mrs. LUCIA AMES MEAD, "The New Education." Prof. BRUNO ROSELLI, "The Industrial Revolution in Italy."
- " 27—SCOTT NEARING, Ph.D., "Leadership and Democracy."
- Mar. 6—GEORGE O'DELL, "Marriage and the Home."
- " 13—EDWIN MARKHAM, "How to Think of the Spiritual World."
- " 20—LOUIS F. POST, "Deportations."
- " 27—HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS, Ph.D., "What About Redeeming Our International Pledges?"
- Apr. 3—EDWARD HOWARD GRIGGS, L.H.D., "The Future of Democracy."

1921-22—FIFTEENTH SEASON

- Oct. 16—Dr. ALEXANDER IRVINE, "What's Wrong with the World?"

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- Oct. 23—**WALTER N. POLAKOV**, "Korsybski's New Law of Life."
 " 30—**MOISSAYE J. OLGIN, Ph.D.**, "The Balance Sheet of the Russian Revolution—What the Revolution Did and What It Failed to Accomplish."
 Nov. 6—**TARAKNATH DAS**, "Mahatma M. K. Gandhi and the Progress of the Non-Violent Revolutionary Movement in India."
 " 13—**Rev. G. S. LACKLAND, Ph.D.**, "Where the Church Met Labor."
 " 20—**ROGER W. BABSON**, "The Business Man's Attitude Toward Education."
 " 27—**Col. RAYMOND ROBINS**, "World Disarmament or World Revolution—Which?"
 Dec. 4—**Dr. TEHYI HSIEH**, "What China Means to the United States."
 " 11—**Rev. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES**, "Our Growing Distrust of Democracy: Is It Justified."
 " 18—**CHARLES KROLL**, "From Socialism to Business—and the Consequences."
 " 25—**CHARLES ZUEBLIN**, "Education for Freedom."
 Jan. 1—**HOMER B. HULBERT, F.R.G.S.**, "A Yank in the Far East."
 " 8—**WHITING WILLIAMS**, "Bayonets, Bolshevism and My Buddies."
 " 15—**Miss MARGARET SLATTERY**, "The Power of Prejudice."
 " 22—**EVERETT DEAN MARTIN**, "The Idolatry of Public Opinion."
 " 29—**GLENN E. PLUMB**, "Industrial Democracy."
 Feb. 5—**Rabbi LOUIS WOLSEY**, "The Jewishness of Jesus."
 " 12—**WILLIAM PICKENS, LL.D.**, "A Common Platform for White and Black."
 " 19—**Rev. JOHN A. RYAN, D.D.**, "Is Labor Gaining or Losing?"
 " 26—**HELEN DAVENPORT GIBBONS** (Mrs. Herbert Adams Gibbons), "Understanding the French People."
 Mar. 5—**Prof. DALLAS LORE SHARP**, "Education for Democracy."
 " 12—**WILLIAM M. LEISENSON, Ph.D.**, "Is Industrial Democracy a Dream?"
 " 19—**GEORGE CREEL**, "The Future of Progressivism."
 " 26—**EDWARD HOWARD GRIGGS, L.H.D.**, "The Education of American Citizenship."
 Apr. 2—**Rev. ALBERT C. DIEFFENBACH, D.D.**, and **Rev. W. HARRY FREDA**, "The Upheaval in Protestantism."

A FEW FORUM TESTIMONIES

" . . . You know that I admire very greatly that enterprise (the Ford Hall Forum) and wish it all possible success. You have steered it through troubled waters for many years and have brought it not into port, but out on the very high seas, where its voyage encourages many other vessels on the same sea." —**PRES. W. H. P. FAUNCE, D.D., LL.D.**

"Ford Hall is one of the few audiences that give the lecturer uncommon gratification."

—**MOISSAYE J. OLGIN, Ph.D.**

"I believe in the Forum and think it has tremendous possibilities in our country in the general education of the masses on matters of high importance to both Church and State." —**REV. JAMES L. BARTON, D.D.**

"I wish there was anything in the world I could do to help along the Open Forum movement in this country. I feel that it is one of the most important expressions of human hope and courage which we can put up against the Bolshevik movement, which means the destruction of civilization."

—**MARGARET DELAND**

"The Ford Hall group has become a permanent body of public influence, the work of which reaches far beyond the borders of Boston."

—**REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES**

"From the days when we ran the FREE FLOOR at old Chicago Commons, over twenty years ago, until this hour, I have believed in the service in community fellowship and social education of such meetings as those held by the OPEN FORUMS."

—**COL. RAYMOND ROBINS**

"I am glad to hear of the success of the forum movement during the past year, both at Ford Hall and throughout the country. I think there is nothing more vital to the creation of a right and free public opinion than the forum movement, and I think there is nothing so essential to the United States today as the formation of intelligent public opinion."

—**RT. REV. CHARLES D. WILLIAMS, D.D., LL.D.**

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PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES

The Open Forum stands for:

1. The complete development of democracy in America.
2. A common meeting ground for all the people in the interest of truth and mutual understanding, and for the cultivation of community spirit.
3. The fullest and freest opportunity for public discussion of all vital questions affecting human welfare.
4. For free participation from the forum floor either by question or discussion.
5. The freedom of Forum Management from responsibility for utterances by speakers from the platform or the floor.

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The Forum Chairman

By HAROLD MARSHALL

*Originator and Director of the Melrose
Community Meetings.*

At least fifty per cent of the permanent success of any forum is due to its chairman. After being for ten years the chairman of a successful forum I am not required to prove it; I admit it.

The essential qualities are those required for leadership anywhere. Quickness of apprehension, depth of comprehension, breadth of sympathy, and a sense of humor that can "rise triumphant over sin and death." The chairman must remember that, in John Bunyan's graphic phrase, "he dwells in the Interpreter's House." He must interpret the speaker to the audience, the audience to the speaker, and the audience to itself.

It need not be pointed out that all this assumes that a single individual is to preside continuously over a forum. A poor permanent chairman is better than a constant succession of good ones. For only by continuity can he and the audience become mutually acquainted, and that acquaintance is primary and elemental to the good will and confidence which a chairman must inspire.

Specifically, the chairman's duties for a given meeting begin at the preceding meeting, when he must translate the speaker-to-be into human terms, so that the audience will be thinking about him during the week and unconsciously come with a sense of acquaintance and an attitude of sympathy. Many things can be wisely and truthfully said at the meeting preceding the speaker's appearance that could not well be said in his presence. A brief word at this time concerning the timeliness of the topic and the general way of approach may be desirable.

At the beginning of any given meeting the chairman himself must be ready. All preliminaries should be settled before the time of beginning, and there should be no appearance of machinery on the platform itself, such as whispered conferences, etc.

The chairman must open the meeting exactly on the minute scheduled. It will be found after a short time, if this is the rule, that the audience will prepare themselves instead of having to be brought to order and attention by the chairman. There is democratic psychology involved in this seemingly insignificant detail.

The chairman must remember that the audience does not come to see or hear him. He has a right to take whatever time is necessary to properly present the speaker and the subject. He has no right to take any time for himself. Whatever preliminaries, as to music, etc. there may be, together with the chairman's introduction, if all have been properly coordinated, should focus on the moment when the chairman delivers the audience to the speaker.

Whatever the character of the address, the chairman must maintain a constant appearance of alert and eager interest in what the speaker is saying. I believe the chairman, by seeming listlessness and indifference, can almost hypnotize a large part of the audience into the same attitude.

He is also the official leader of the claque. If he finds the speaker a bit heavy, so that the audience is growing listless, he should watch for any excuse to start applause. The mere sound of handclapping will not only be a stimulus to the speaker, but will rouse the audience to attention.

When the speaker has finished, one of the crucial tests and golden opportunities of the chairman arrives. If he is able to synthesize in two or three ringing sentences the vital message of the speaker, he can do much to drive it home to the audience. If there has been a jarring or contentious note in the speaker's utterances, he may oftentimes smooth the rough edge away by two or three happy phrases.

If there has been apparent antagonism between the speaker and certain sections of the audience, it is for him to frame an inclusive whole truth that shall include their antagonistic half-truths.

To most chairmen the question period is the most important part of the meeting. It is important, but in the aggregate and in the long run no more so than the ones already suggested. It is, however, in the question period that the chair-

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man's real leadership or lack of it becomes apparent. If he is a mere mechanical mouthpiece to repeat the words of the questioner, he is something worse than sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. In many instances he will be required to state intelligently a question which the questioner himself only half understands. In others, to reduce to a succinct phrase the involutions of a mind that refuses to function coherently. Still again, a smile and a happy turn of phrase will be required to take the bitterness or animosity out of a question, burning with a sense of injustice or blatant with bigotry and prejudice.

He ought also to be ready to meet the pauses that sometimes happen even in the best regulated forums, when nobody is quite ready with a question, and to have framed in his own mind certain questions worth being answered and which may in turn get the discussion forward.

From this outline it will appear that the ideal chairman is not even a little lower than the angels. Perhaps he bears an even closer resemblance to the quadruped that appears in the old story of the farmer who went to the circus and saw a giraffe for the first time. After scrutinizing the animal from all possible viewpoints, he spat vigorously and remarked, "There ain't no such animal!"

This is not, however, to be construed as a counsel of perfection or an expression of pessimism. A man who knows people and who loves humanity and truth will find his heart as sure a guide as his head in what, to those who have had the experience, not only brings a deep sense of enjoyment, but does far more for the chairman's own education than he can possibly do for the audience.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

By GEORGE W. COLEMAN

*Founder and Director of Ford Hall Forum
Boston, Mass.*

It would be difficult indeed to frame the duties of a Forum Chairman more satisfactorily than Dr. Marshall has done in very brief compass. Following such a compact presentation of the topic, however, there are bound to arise many questions in the minds of those who are contemplating the setting up of a forum. In the following paragraphs I will attempt to answer some of these imaginary questions.

How long should the Question Period last?

Under ideal conditions the audience will be allowed as much time to question the speaker as is given to the address itself. But the discussion should never be allowed to continue beyond a definite, specified time. It is as important for the meeting to close on schedule time as it is for it to open at the advertised hour.

Is speech-making allowed from the floor?

We have come to hear the appointed speaker of the evening and to draw from him his special knowledge and particular point of view. If there is another side to the subject under discussion, worthy of presentation, find a suitable speaker to handle it and give it another evening. Do not allow helter-skelter speech-making from the floor. It robs others of their time for asking a question, it dissipates and sidetracks the main thought of the evening and it opens the door for cranks and nuisances to monopolize the meeting?

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Is there a time limit on questions?

No, the good faith of the questioner and the good sense of the chairman determine how long the question may be. Long enough to make the point clear; not so long as to waste the time of the audience. Under the guise of a question, cleverly framed, one can easily present his own point of view, challenge the speaker's, or express agreement and commendation.

May one ask a second question?

That depends upon whether there are others eagerly awaiting their chance to be heard. At the Ford Hall Forum in Boston and many others, the questions come so thick and fast it is seldom possible even to give one chance to all those who are anxious to express themselves. But if a questioner is manifestly unsatisfied with the answer he got, or gives evidence that his question was not rightly understood by the speaker, the chairman will often go back to him and give him another chance.

Suppose several questioners arise in different parts of the audience at the same time. What then?

In a large forum audience where there is an eager desire for the questioning, the chairman will do well to take the audience section by section, thus avoiding confusion and enabling him to deal more justly with those who are trying to get his attention. (No one presents his question until the chairman has indicated it is his turn.) At Ford Hall I never start with the same section of the audience two successive evenings, but wherever I start I proceed in regular rotation around the hall and, having finished with one section, never go back to it. And keeping my eye on the clock I allow only so many questions in each section, so as to be sure to cover all sections of the hall before the closing hour, ten o'clock

Maybe the questions are few and far between. How is that managed?

In that case each questioner may be given more time and allowed a second or even a third question. The chairman himself will be ready with a worthwhile question and he will throw out suggestions to stimulate the audience and try to put them at their ease. In new forums it is often found advisable to pledge the committee and other interested persons to be ready with a question.

Why is it necessary for the chairman to repeat the questions before the speaker answers them?

In order that every one in the audience may hear it; so that the chairman may clarify or emphasize it; to give the speaker a moment in which to catch his intellectual breath before answering; and finally, and most important of all, because it puts the control of the meeting in the hands of the chairman where it belongs. Otherwise your speaker and some questioner would soon fall into a personal discussion. Debate back and forth between a speaker and one questioner is never allowed.

What rules must a questioner observe?

He must ask a question and not make a statement. It must relate to the subject presented by the speaker. No discourtesy to the speaker, the chairman, or the audience is permitted,—no assault on any one's religion.

Must the chairman repeat the exact language of the questioner?

Very rarely; only when the question is so compact and so carefully framed there is no other way. Often the chairman can rephrase it, making it briefer and more pointed. Sometimes it is much too long for repetition and one can give only the gist of it. If the situation is growing too tense, the chairman may relieve it by raising a laugh oftentimes by a mere inflection of the voice or turn of the head when he is repeating a question.

As soon as a chairman has gained the confidence and good will of a forum audience (and this can hardly be realized with constantly changing chairmen), the question period almost regulates itself. The audience having become accustomed to the *modus operandi* will brook no infringement by an obstreperous seeker of the limelight and will often show their impatience and objection before the chairman has thought it necessary to call the troublesome one to order. It sometimes happens, however, that the chairman must stand between a restless or ruthless audience and some innocent, earnest questioner who by his peculiarities happens to excite the mirth or provoke the impatience of his hearers. Every effort made by the chairman to secure even-handed justice for the lowliest and most ill-favored questioner redounds to his benefit in the long run, and some night when he finds himself in a particularly difficult and ticklish corner he is helped out of his dilemma by the good will and responsiveness of his audience.

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