Tenth Day

WORDS ABOUT YOUR FELLOW MEN

WE HAVE now a wide and most important group of words to consider. These are the words that describe and catalog a few of the various classes of our fellow men and that identify some of their activities. And here is a helpful game that you might like to try. Just jot down on the margin of these pages, opposite each of the 25 words that follow, the name of a friend of yours or a well-known actor or public character who, you believe, would best personify the particular word under discussion. Dramatizing the word in this fashion will help fix the meaning in your mind.

You will meet some familiar words in this list, words that we have introduced in previous chapters. But repetition is a part of learning, and very often, when a word appears a second time, it will be presented under another guise and with a slightly different meaning.

Let us look over a few of the words that characterize the varied types of personalities who inhabit our interesting world.

I. 1. The *coquette* (co-ket′)—This girl promises much, flirts egregiously and delivers very little.

2. The *circe* (sur′-see)—Her greatest pleasure comes from luring men on to their destruction.

3. The *amazon* (am′-a-zon)—She's the tall, strapping, masculine kind.

4. The *virago* (vye-ray′-go)—She is the loud-mouthed, turbulent, battle-axe type.

5. The *adonis* (a-doe′-nis)—He's the handsome, Greek-god man who makes the hearts of young girls flutter.

II. 1. The *judas* (joo′-dus)—Don't trust him. He's the traitor who will sell out his best friend for money.

2. The *futilitarian* (fyoo-til-i-tair′-ee-an)—The pessimist and cynic who sees no particular point to anything in life.

3. The *vulgarian* (vul-gair′-ee-an)—Has vulgar tastes and manners. Often used of a newly-rich person with such tastes.

4. The *pedant* (ped′-ant)—His greatest delight is making an unnecessary show of his learning. He attaches exaggerated importance to details of scholarship.

5. The *egoist* (egg′-o-ist)—His credo is selfishness. His interests come first, and no one else matters.

6. The *ascetic* (a-set′ik)—Lives a severely temperate life and avoids the human pleasures and the human vices.

7. The *esthete* (ess′-theet, *th* as in *think*)—A person of fine taste and artistic culture. Sometimes with a little leaning to the dilettante side.

III. 1. The *demagogue* (dem′-a-gog)—He foments social discontent in order to further his own political ambitions. Huey Long, late boss of Louisiana, was the perfect example.

2. The *martinet* (mar-ti-net′)—He's a fanatic in his insistence on blind discipline from his subordinates, and he's a tiresome stickler for form and etiquette.

3. The *sycophant* (sick′-o-fant)—By insincere flattery and pretended servility, he hopes to make rich or influential people think of him kindly.

IV. 1. The *atheist* (ay′-thee-ist)—He's sure God is non-existent.

2. The *agnostic* (ag-noss′-tik)—He maintains that the human mind is incapable of penetrating the mystery of divine existence. Perhaps there is a God, perhaps not. No man knows.

V. 1. The *tyro* (tye′-ro)—He's a beginner in some trade or occupation.

2. The *virtuoso* (vur-choo-o′-so)—He is the antithesis of the tyro, having reached the greatest heights of skill and competence in music, painting or any one of the fine arts.

3. The *philologist* (fil-ol′-o-jist)—He's a scholar on the subject of language and speech.

4. The *clairvoyant* (clair-voy′-ant)—He claims the ability to see things not visible to those with normal sight. Hence, he often makes prophecies about the future.

VI. 1. The *philatelist* (fil-at′-el-ist)—He's the stamp-collector.

2. The *numismatist* (nyoo-miss′-ma-tist)—He's the coin-collector.

VII. 1. The *gourmet* (goor-may′)—Choice and dainty about his food. He has dedicated his life to good eating.

2. The *connoisseur* (con-a-sur′)—He is a critical judge of some one fine art.

VIII. Now we are going to describe each of the above types in a sentence. Can you fill in the blank space with the name of the particular type that fits the description?

1. He does not believe in God. .....
2. He is a skilful practitioner of some art. .....
3. He collects rare coins. .....
4. He has an unusual appreciation of beauty. .....
5. He is ostentatious about his learning. .....
6. He will betray a friend. .....
7. She is a flirt. .....
8. She is a destructive siren. .....
9. He is an offensive stickler for discipline. .....
10. He lives only for himself. .....
11. He lives a simple and austere existence. .....
12. He bootlicks the rich and powerful. .....
13. He is a false leader of the common people. .....
14. He's not sure whether or not God exists. .....
15. He claims that life is completely futile. .....
16. She's a strong man-like woman. .....
17. She has a sharp, bold tongue and temper. .....

18. He has good taste in food. .....
19. He's extremely handsome. .....
20. He's coarse and uncouth. .....
21. He's a beginner in his trade or profession. .....
22. He is a student of words. .....
23. He says he can see things that you can't. .....
24. He's an authoritative judge and critic in some fine art. .....
25. He collects stamps. .....

These are intensely human words about human characteristics, professions and avocations. They are warm to the fingertips, and for this reason, should be easy to learn.