just instinct enough to fall for a mind that is serving to sluice even the beginning American language into the waste tanks.

Yours most sincerely for Aesthete 1925,

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

Let us consider that everything Mencken advocates is constitutional amendment.

WALTER S. HANKEL

DEAR MR. HANKEL:

I can explain my sudden intrusion into your editorial privacy only upon the perhaps insufficient ground of an ingenuous curiosity. Who is this Mr. Ernest Boyd? I should like to know. And if you should like to know how I know who you are, I will be forced to tell you, in the most mystical of terms, that obviously we are all aesthetes together and can claim the quality even before the act of acquaintance.

When I was a few years old and living at that time in the South I read some of Mr. Boyd's Irish criticism. When I was a few years older I read the first number of The American Mercury, and I easily saw that he had changed from a vague Irish literary man—vague to me so far from New York—into one of the best-equipped American journalists. I said then: Ernest Boyd hasn't been getting a hearing lately; he will get one now by trying to keep other people from being heard. And it was true; what I had so innocently divined was true. Other things were true.

For instance, it was true that Mr. Boyd saw into the prejudices of the great hordes that swarm the plains from Wisconsin to the Gulf of Mexico, saw into them without having been there except maybe to have tea in St. Louis. He is probably a better social psychologist than Mr. MacDougall; he is certainly a more effective one—for the uses of journalism. He exploits one of these prejudices with amazing astuteness. By ridiculing the work of a group of young men who wouldn't exactly meet Defoe's requirement of being understanded of the people, Mr. Boyd has enabled these people to feel pleasantly superior to the one thing they like most to feel superior to—what they can't understand. He has further strengthened his popular appeal by shifting it, in sentences of swift, incom-