

Comment by the Editor

POLITICAL DRAMATICS

Americans have a way of dramatizing politics. Election campaigns are featured by hilarious meetings, boastful speeches, and flamboyant placards. Persuasion is based upon proof by assertion. Crude symbols of political character, such as roosters, elephants, and donkeys, are flouted in the faces of bewildered voters to guide their thought. Artificial enthusiasm is unbridled, but prejudice is rampant. As a demonstration of national immaturity, the conduct of a political campaign is convincing.

Once upon a time torchlight parades were popular; but in an age of mazda bulbs and ethyl gas, votes are sought by more comfortable methods. Perchance the busy housewife or the unemployed workman pause in their efforts to earn a living. If they merely turn a switch, political ballyhoo will assail their ears. From every restaurant, cigar store, and home the blatant loud speaker proclaims the virtues of candidates or advocates booze. No exertion is necessary.

In recognition of the quiet radio audience everywhere, the procedure of national conven-

tions is modified to make a better entertainment. A presidential candidate flies to Chicago to provide a thrilling climax. Noisy demonstrations dare not be too prolonged or the potential constituents will turn to tooth-paste or tobacco advertisements for relief. If the people are so intensely concerned with public welfare, why not install microphones in Congress?

J. E. B.