THOM, Douglas Armour.

Born at Boston, October 4, 1887.
January 14, 1930

Dr. Douglas Thom,
520 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Thom;

I enclose a clipping from a recent issue of our Library Bulletin about the Maine Author Collection at this library. I am informed that you are a native of Maine and we certainly wish to have represented in our collection so distinguished a person as yourself.

Will you please send us an autographed copy of "Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child"? We do not ask you to give us this book, but we do ask that you autograph and inscribe it for us.

To add to our collection's value as a reference source to students of Maine's literary history we are assembling biographical and critical material about our authors and their works. Will you send us some information about yourself, a photograph, and, if possible, a picture of the house where you were born. These will be kept in special files, together with any correspondence we may have with you.

Please make your bill for your book in duplicate to the Maine State Library.

Signed: [Signature]
Miss Marian C. Fuller,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Miss Fuller:

I am inclosing a biographical sketch of Dr. Thom to be used in the Maine Author Collection.

His book, "Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child," is going forward under another cover today.

Sincerely yours,

Incs.

Evelyn G. Saunders
February 26, 1930

Dr. Douglas Thom,
520 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Thom;- 

We are glad to have a copy of your valuable and interesting book, Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child to add to our Maine Author Collection, and we are delighted with the biographical sketch of the author. As we wrote you, we feel that the files containing material about our authors, including all correspondence with them, are not only of great present interest but are sure to be of much future value.

We regret that we cannot claim you as a native of Maine; your delightful inscription makes us feel that you are very willing to be considered an adopted son of this state.

Very truly yours,
March 14, 1930.

Miss Marion C. Fuller,
Maine State Library,
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Miss Fuller:

Please find inclosed check for $2.50 which I received this morning and which I presume was payment for book.

It is my desire that the book be presented to the Library with my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Inc.

DAT:EGS

Douglas A. Thom, M. D.
March 17, 1930

Dr. Douglas A. Thom,
520 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Thom:

We have received the check for two dollars and fifty cents which you returned to us. Thank you very much for giving to the Maine Author Collection a copy of "Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child." We feel that when we have asked an author to go to the trouble of autographing and inscribing a book and sending it to us, we have trespassed sufficiently upon his kindness without asking that the book be given to us. However, we are very glad to receive your book as a gift. May I add that I think it is a book which is worth while purchasing for any library.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

BY MCP
Douglas Armour Thom was born in Boston, October 4, 1887 and spent his boyhood in the hills of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

He began his educational experiences in the typical "little red school house" in Maine where in winter all gathered about the glowing stove to thoroughly bake on one side while the off side shivered in contrast.

He tells of one time winning a $20 prize in mathematics, but adds the prize had to be given each year and he was the only one in the class - here he leaves one to draw one's own conclusions. He also claims to have been on intimate terms with the truant officer and to have been the best caddy that ever "heeled" a golf ball into the mud.

Undoubtedly he gained much of his knowledge of human nature from sampling it in the many schools and Academies which he attended during his preparatory work.

Dr. Thom entered the University of Vermont in 1907 intending to qualify as a civil engineer. He says his instructors, in the interests of public safety, disuaded him from bridge construction. Whether that be the true reason or not, he transferred to the Medical School and from there was graduated in 1912.

On completion of his medical course he was appointed Assistant Physician at Monson State Hospital, Palmer, Massachusetts, July 1, 1912. In January, 1913 he was appointed Pathologist at the same Hospital. He remained in this post until July, 1916 when he was made Assistant Pathologist to the State Board of Insanity (now the Department of Mental Diseases). He
worked for the Board in the various State Hospitals and was closely associated with the late Dr. E. E. Southard at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital.

In 1917 the World War claimed his interest and he entered the service with the rank of Captain and was sent to Camp Devens. From there after a brief stay he was assigned to the British Army from February to July, 1918 and ordered to England for study of the neuro-psychiatric problems of the English Hospitals. There he worked under Sir Frederick Mott at Maudsley Hospital, London, and with Dr. Bernard Hart at the Neuro-psychiatric Hospital at Magull. After this hospital experience, he was sent to Blackpool in training for service in the East.

Here he had his first true military experience. Adaptability served him well. His tales of these days show up his rare insight and boundless sense of humor. For instance, here he had his first experience with horseback riding, as he says, "On a horse which apparently had never carried a rider before and it was a question how long he would continue to carry one!"

He was relieved from this embarrassing situation by a change of plans. He was returned to the U. S. Army, ordered to France, and attached to Base Hospital Unit 117. Here he remained from July, 1917 to February, 1919, eventually being advanced to Medical Director of the Unit. His psychiatric work with the hysterical paralyses and so-called "shell-shocked" of this war hospital was an invaluable experience.

In February, 1919 he was sent to England by the late Dr. Thomas W. Salmon, who at that time was in charge of the
Neuro-psychiatric work of the A. E. F. to make a study of the British army pension system. On return to the U. S., Dr. Salmon, then Medical Director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, appointed him Chief of Reconstruction War Work, - a National Committee activity.

On September 6, 1919 he was married to Emily Barbour of Wisconsin. Together they returned to England where he undertook further study in the English Hospitals.

In 1920 on returning to Massachusetts he became Chief of the Out-Patient Department at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital where he remained until 1923.

Dr. Thom's work in development of the Habit Clinics for pre-school children scarcely needs description as it has brought him not only national but international recognition. The project was started in Boston in 1921 at the instigation of the Baby Hygiene Association and it has developed in a sound but unpretentious way. The original clinics, supported by private funds, are still maintained, and the program has been further developed under the State Department of Mental Diseases through the Division of Mental Hygiene of which Dr. Thom was made Director upon its creation in 1923 and in which position he still remains.

The publication by the Children's Bureau in Washington of such material as his report on "Habit Clinics for Pre-School Children: Their Organization and Operation" and "Child Management," has done much to spread interest in the Mental Hygiene of childhood. His book, "Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child," pub-
lished in 1927, was awarded a gold medal by Children - The
Magazine for Parents as the best contribution of the year to
Parental Education.

Besides his outstanding work in the psychiatric study
of children, Dr. Thom has been active in many other fields. He
served as Neuro-psychiatric Consultant and was also Chief of the
Boston Clinic conducted by the latter organization. Later he
became a member of the medical council of the United States
Veterans Bureau.

He was among the first of the psychiatrists to become
interested in Mental Hygiene in the colleges, having been Consult­
tant at the University of Vermont and Smith College in Northampton.
He has also served in the same capacity for St. Paul's School,
Concord, and in summer camps.

Teaching has been one of his interests. He is instructor
in Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, Professor of Psychi­
atry at Tufts College Medical School, and has given courses in Psy­
chiatry at the University of Vermont, Boston University, the Smith
College School of Social Work, and the Cambridge Theological School.

Dr. Thom is a member of the American Psychiatric Associa­
tion, the American Neurological Association, the American Psycho­
pathological Association, the Association for the Study of the
Feeble-Minded, Boston Society of Neurology and Psychiatry, the
Massachusetts Society of Psychiatry, the New England Society of
Psychiatry, the American Medical Editors' Association, and the
French Société Médicale Psychologique.