

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

THE STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The teachers throughout the entire state will learn with sorrow of the death of Principal Mallory K. Cannon of the Maury High School, Norfolk. Mr. Cannon was elected President of the State Teacher's Association, at its last annual meeting, and had under way well worked out plans for the enlargement of the usefulness of this organization.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association Dr. W. R. Smith-e-y, former secretary of the State Board of Education and now a member of the faculty of the School of Education at the University of Virginia, was elected to serve as president of the Association for the first year of the unexpired term of President Cannon. Dr. Smithey's wide acquaintance with school affairs, coupled with his administrative ability, should make him an excellent officer for the Association.

One hears from many sources that the rank and file of the teachers feel that the State organization somehow is not functioning for them as it should. Some only hear it mentioned in the fall at their local institutes when dues are called for. A large number, too, have only this contact with the organization. A small number attended the annual meeting in Richmond, sit with folded hands and listen to a heterogeneous assemblage of addresses, some pertaining to school matters, some to propaganda of various kinds

more or less related to school work. They come to Thursday and Friday when a smooth working, invisible machinery rushes through the appointment of new officers and the passing of numerous resolutions. Sometimes methods that can be characterized only by the term "steam roller" are employed to accomplish this. The individual delegate and the individual member in the business session are largely onlookers. Here, in my opinion, is the trouble that needs to be remedied. The State Association, despite these conditions, can enumerate many splendid things it has done for the teacher and for the public schools, but it needs to give the individual teacher larger opportunity for expression through the business session which should be lengthened and presided over by an officer that is willing to let the individual teacher have a voice in determining the policies and procedure of the association.

Then too something should be done to stimulate and keep alive the interest of the member who does not attend the annual meeting. The President of the Association should see this year that the big objectives of the Association are properly put before the teachers when the president of the local association calls for dues. An accurate statement of what the Association has accomplished in the past would not be amiss. Certainly the individual members of the local association should make their choice and instruction of delegates a product of definite purpose determined from mature consideration of definite problems of the profession. Then when these delegates go to the annual meeting they should be heard.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September first witnessed the introduction of several new faces to the State Department of Education. Miss Ora H. Avery succeeds Miss Edith Baer as Supervisor of Home Economics, Miss Baer having resigned to accept a position in the Home Economics faculty of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. W. L. Prince, supervisor of high schools, leaves the department to become a member of the education faculty of Richmond College. Mr. Prince has been succeeded by Principal Algar Woolfolk of the Richmond City Normal School and Principal Henry G. Ellis of the Emporia High School.

Principal W. D. Gresham of Pulaski takes up the work with the colored schools, formerly done by Supervisor Arthur D. Wright who has been made a supervisor of Army Post Schools.

The new supervisorship of physical education created by the last legislature will be filled by Mr. Guy C. Throner who will be known as State Director of Physical Training.

WOMEN'S NEW RESPONSIBILITY

Woman suffrage is an accomplished fact. Whether you, the individual woman, favored the 19th amendment or not you stand on an equal footing with men in voting power and you must assume the responsibilities that such power carries with it. Especially do we hope that all intelligent and patriotic women will acquaint themselves with the machinery and problems of our government and vote, not stay at home and let the woman with less intelligence, guided by selfish interests, destroy the possible good of your judgment and purpose. Especially should this responsibility be met by teachers not only because they are exemplars in their various communities, but because we believe them the most intelligent and most patriotic of any group of our women. Then, too, the teaching profession has suffered at the hands of legislative assemblies and executive boards because it was composed largely of "women teachers." It will be a different proposition if the ten thousand "women teachers" are also ten thousand voters. Because we have an opportunity at the coming November election to pass two constitutional amendments that mean untold consequence for our schools. Ten thousand teachers' votes in the affirmative will insure the passage of these amendments without a doubt.

FOR COUNTY INSTITUTES

Every Division Superintendent or presiding officer at the county institutes in September and October should impress upon the teachers the necessity of qualifying for suffrage and voting for the passage of the constitutional amendments for removing the limitation on local taxation for schools and for making it possible to prevent the waste of one third of our school taxes by a strong compulsory attendance law.

S. P. D.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE RECENT MAGAZINES

"In Defense of Old Jokes," by John Kendrick Bangs. *The Bookman*.

A humorous resume of jokes of all ages from "Hellenic scintillance" down to the reproductions of Mutt and Jeff, written in the best style of this prince of laugh-makers. He undertakes to prove that "What we laugh at doesn't matter so long as it is clean and wholesome and bears no barb of malice, and by that token any instrument of mirth that comes to hand should be welcome, whether it belong to the age of Pericles or that of Josephus Daniels."

"Rio de Janeiro, in the Land of Lure," by Harriet C. Adams. *The National Geographic Magazine*.

Vivid description and forty full-page illustrations help to make real the dominating beauty of this one of our family of American cities whose acquaintance we are only beginning to make.

"The New Poetry," by Alda Dorothea Leaw. *Education*.

This is a fine literary paper which is at once a history, an analysis, a criticism, and a defense of the much-discussed modern verse. It might also be considered a warning, as the author in her conclusion says, "It is the duty of the school to guide the poetic flame, that it may preserve 'the harmony of the helpfulness of life' instead of becoming a conflagration".

"Artistic Equipment of the Modern Schoolroom," by Elizabeth Cahill. *School Arts Magazine*.

An argument and practical suggestions for equipping the schoolrooms of the country in such a manner as to make the classroom itself a center of culture.

"The School of Feathertown," by Walter Barnes, State Normal School, Fairmont, W. Va. *Education*.

A clever burlesque in the form of a parable, warning against burdening the school curriculum with unpractical detail.