

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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Manuscripts from those interested in our state educational problems offered for publication should be addressed to the Editor of *The Virginia Teacher*, State Normal School, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

The National Association of Deans of Women will hold its annual meeting in the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, February 23-25. On Thursday morning and afternoon, February 23, joint conferences will be held with the National Committee of the Bureaus of Occupations, with representatives of college vocational activities, and with the National Vocational Guidance Association.

MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION FORMED TO HONOR A GREAT SOUTHERN SCHOOL LEADER

Many friends of the distinguished southern educator, Dr. William Knox Tate, have long wished to honor his memory and work by a memorial of some kind. Recently, some of these intimate friends met at Peabody College for Teachers and organized a memorial association to consider the selection of a suitable memorial and to decide upon a plan of giving all of his many friends an opportunity to participate in its creation.

This foremost, southern, country-life leader went everywhere preaching the need of good rural schools with a long school term and the very best teachers obtainable, with a sincerity and simpleness that commanded attention. Withal, he was so human, so much a man, that he was loved by all who met him. He was bubbling over with good cheer and enthusiasm for the things which he

believed in, and this infectious spirit permeated his students so that the Tate spirit is still marching on. His was an influence that aroused the ambitions of many teachers and caused them to desire more training.

TEXTBOOK MAKERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY

Reporting the Disarmament Conference, H. G. Wells, speaking of the Japanese situation, says: "In the long run what is happening in the schools of Japan, is of more importance to mankind than what is happening in her dockyards. At present we do not know what is happening in the schools of Japan." We do know this much. Japan is adopting American textbooks at an astonishing rate. Keio University of Tokyo, one of the largest in Japan, has just decided on Robinson, Breasted, and Smith's *General History of Europe* for the first year of the Preparatory Course, following with Robinson and Beard's *History of Europe: Our Own Times* (Ginn). Japan is pressing forward with the education of its common people.

NEW MOVIE MAGAZINE

What appears to be a sprightly little publication is *The Educational Screen*¹, Volume I Number 1 of which appeared in January. Nelson L. Green is its editor. In M. F. L. he has found a discerning critic and reviewer. "Free A Future Art From A Present Industry" is the motto M. F. L. adopts for his department, and his discrimination is illustrated by his comparison of a good effect in a current film with "the gesture of Sothorn's hand as he came from the King's death chamber or that measureless moment of agony in Chaplin's eyes when he was being taken from the Kid."

The Educational Screen is not the official organ of anything or anybody, it is stated. It is rather "a magazine written and produced exclusively by those whose scholarly training, experience and reputation qualify them to discuss educational matters."

One cannot overestimate the influence of the screen, nor the need of educators' instructing themselves in the possibilities of the screen. "The political, economic and spirit-

¹Published every month except July and August. One dollar a year. *The Educational Screen*, 5200 Harper Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

ual education of twenty to thirty million people is going on every moment the mighty screens are lighted."

And "when an American school child watches a screen, 99 times out of 100 it is a theatrical screen. No American educator, high or humble, can afford to ignore this fearful fact, unless, of course, he believes that the one viewing will have a significant effect on the child intelligence and the 99 will not."

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A testing program for silent reading, arithmetic, spelling and writing in the grades, calling for a first test at the beginning of the year, a second mid-year test, and a third final test, is advocated by Superintendent R. C. Maston, of Martins Ferry, Ohio. His plan for scientific research into the accomplishments of his school is ably and suggestively discussed under the title, "The Advantages of a Department of Research for a Public School System", in the January 1922 issue of *The Ohio Teacher*, which may be obtained for 12 cents at 71 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES

In twenty-one cities public health institutes will be held between January and June, 1922, under the auspices of the various state boards of health and the United States Public Health Service. According to the preliminary announcement sent out from Washington, "expectation of life at birth has probably been prolonged at least 10 years" through the improvement of conditions of living in the United States in the last half-century.

The present series of institutes is designed to study "economic and social organization and, in order to achieve greater public health, assist in the development of a more equitable social order."

Virginians interested in these institutes will find that the one scheduled to take place in Washington, D. C., late in May will offer their facilities in the education of public health workers. Further information is to be obtained from the United States Public Health Service, Washington.

MONOGRAPH ON SILENT AND ORAL READING

A series of monographs entitled "Educational Progress" is being issued by the Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, and will be supplied free to teachers. The first bulletin was prepared by Emma Miller Bolenius and under the title, "Silent and Oral Reading in the Elementary School," differentiates between silent and oral reading, points out bad habits detrimental to effective silent reading, outlines procedures, explains the uses and results of scientific tests, and offers a selected bibliography with short descriptions of books listed. This bulletin is valuable for its conciseness as well as for its authoritativeness.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In Massachusetts there are 411 free public libraries; in Virginia there are 18 free public libraries.

In only 6 of Virginia's 100 counties are there free public libraries of 5,000 volumes or over.

In Massachusetts 3,349,427 persons, or 99.6% of its 1910 population, were served by free public libraries; in Virginia 197,072, or 9.6% of its population, were served by such libraries.

A 10 cent tax on each \$100 of assessed property value, according to census estimates for 1912, would yield in Virginia an income of \$864,963. The total present expenditures of Virginia's free public libraries is \$29,046.

Free public libraries are an inevitable part of any comprehensive educational policy for the State of Virginia.

ILLITERACY

Virginia has cause for gratification in the fact that the percentage of her illiterates over 10 years of age has decreased from 15.2% in 1910 to 11.2% in 1920.

That her goal has not yet been reached is apparent in the further fact that there were in 1920 in Virginia 195,159 illiterates over 10 years of age.

These figures are given out by the U. S. Census Bureau, which defines "illiterate" as signifying inability to write in any language.

Corresponding figures for the entire United States are 5,516,163, or 7.7% in 1910; 4,931,905, or 6%, in 1920.