

BOOKS

INVALUABLE SUMMARY

PSYCHOLOGY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUBJECTS.
By Homer B. Reed. Boston: Ginn and Company. 1927. Pp. 481. \$2.00.

Mr. Reed here summarizes the current experimental studies in school subjects. Thus in one volume the reader may orient himself with the scientific movement in reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as in language, and the social studies group. The references at the close of each chapter are carefully selected, and show familiarity with the field.

Mr. Reed has done an invaluable service for the teacher who thinks, but who is out of touch with the laboratory movement in methods. Moreover, the fact that he can write clearly, with a minimum of educational lingo, in no way detracts from the book.

KATHERINE M. ANTHONY

THE HEART—AND EXERCISE

HEART AND ATHLETICS. By Felix Deutsch and Emil Kauf. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1927. Pp. 187. \$2.50.

The effect of athletics on the heart has been a much discussed subject. The research considered in this volume is the result of observing thousands of participants in all kinds of athletics whose hearts were examined at the "Heart Station" in Vienna. The effect of exercise for pleasure on men and women of different ages is studied in 1649 cases, the conclusions being that "exercise for pleasure causes no enlargement of the heart, but, on the contrary, produces a strengthening of the whole organism."

The subject of competitive athletics is also taken up thoroughly, all types of sports being considered. The types of exercise placing greatest strain upon the circulatory apparatus were found to be rowing, bicycling, and skiing; next came swimming, hiking, light and heavy athletics; but boxing, football, and fencing rarely gave rise to cardiac dilation. It was also concluded

that with proper medical supervision, athletic training might be permitted to every individual who possessed requisite muscular development regardless of age. It was found that while a large percentage of athletes showed heart changes, that the majority nevertheless possessed absolutely normal hearts. The advantages individuals receive from competitive athletics are such that the authors feel that such sports should not be prohibited as long as any possible dangers are held down to a minimum by adequate medical control.

In view of the amount of discussion at present on this subject this book is of more than usual interest. R. F. WEEMS

LIKE ABOU BEN ADHEM

THE DOORWAY TO ENGLISH. By L. W. Rader and P. H. Deffendall. Richmond: Johnson Publishing Company. 1926. Book One, pp. 366; Book Two, pp. 382; Book Three, pp. 468.

Each of the newer-type language series has its own merits; one is good in its clear style, and another strong in vocabulary building or in other skills; one is progressive in its stimulation of responsibility in the child and another excels in its development of correct speech; one presents grammar inductively and as an aid in speaking or writing, and another organizes the composition into a series of definite teaching units. But, according to this reviewer, the *Doorway to English* is akin to the estimable *Abou Ben Adhem* in that its name stands first in the greatest number of these points.

KATHERINE M. ANTHONY

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

THE LAND OF WILHELM TELL. By Jay Earle Thompson. Richmond, Virginia: Johnson Publishing Company. 1927. Pp. 230.

In this sympathetic setting for Schiller's great national drama we find an abundance of clear description of Switzerland and illustrative bits from literary masterpieces. The book may be used by children of the fourth and fifth grades as a supplement to geography or for purely recreative reading.

The illustrations are photographs. There is a pronouncing vocabulary.

SWIMMING SIMPLIFIED. Revised and Enlarged Edition. By Lyba and Nita Sheffield. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company. 1927. Pp. 297. \$2.00.

This book is a storehouse of treasure for the swimming instructor. There are twelve chapters of well-graded lessons from swimming for beginners through life-saving, water sports, and managing of swimming meets. "Faults and Their Corrections" and a well-ordered list of review questions at the end of each chapter are great helps to the instructor. Many clear-cut illustrations add to the attractiveness and value of the book.

SPECIAL DAY PAGEANTS. For Little People. By Marion Kennedy and Katherine Isabel Bemis. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company. 1927. Pp. 48. \$1.50.

A book useful to the primary teacher who has had to struggle through the planning of programs for holidays and other occasions. It contains twenty-one easy, attractive pageants.

EVERYDAY READING. By Henry Carr Pearson and Charles Wesley Hunt. New York: American Book Company. 1927. Book One, pp. 192. Book Two, pp. 255. Book Three, pp. 272. Manual, pp. 141.

These three volumes contain nearly two hundred lessons for silent reading; there are games, nature stories, bits of literature, and selections for special days. With the help of the very usable Manual these books can be made handy tools for the development of the fundamental reading skills in the middle grades.

ARITHMETIC PRACTICE EXERCISES AND TESTS. By John Theodore Johnson. Chicago: Rand McNally and Company. 1926. Number of Exercises, 70.

Such sets of practice sheets in fundamentals of addition, subtraction, multiplication, short division and long division are welcome in this day of self-testing and self-directing drilling. The exercises in this little book may be used repeatedly; they require no copying; the figures are in large clear type and the arrangement is simple.

SELF-DIAGNOSTIC TESTS IN ARITHMETIC. By John Theodore Johnson. Chicago: Rand McNally and Company. 1926. Pp. 22.

This set of tests is scientifically selected and organized. It is to be used for placement of pupils and for the assignment of work in the *Johnson Practice Exercise and Test Book*.

STANDARD SERVICE ARITHMETIC. By F. B. Knight, J. W. Studebaker, and G. M. Ruch. Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Company. 1926. Book One, pp. 382. Book Two, pp. 438. Book Three, pp. 545.

Amid the flood of new arithmetic texts these books rank high. The vocabulary is graded, the steps in presenting new work gradual, and the frequent drills, reviews, and tests scientifically compiled and arranged. The books are written directly to the children. Especially valuable is the section on long division: this put into the hands of the average child of the fourth grade almost eliminates the need of a teacher.

HAMILTON'S ESSENTIALS OF ARITHMETIC. By Samuel Hamilton. New York: American Book Company. 1919. First Book, pp. 368. Second Book, pp. 432.

This is a basic series of texts for the elementary grades. Problems and drills are presented in great quantity, but the content and its organization are not for the modern classroom.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS ALUMNÆ

College opened this autumn with 751 students enrolled, an increase of 50 over last year's number. About four hundred new girls entered. The large student body has made it necessary for forty-seven girls to room in town and some of these take their meals in the tea room, since the college dining room is not large enough to accommodate so many.

The freshmen went through the usual week of training designed to "orient" the new girls into the life of the college. The examinations were successfully passed. A little more training in the matter of recognizing upper classmen, and the freshmen were considered ready for admission into the student body. The union of the Old and New Girls was completed with the symbolic wedding ceremony with Anne Everette, freshman, as the bride, and Virginia Turpin, president of the senior class, as the groom. The service was carried out with complete attention to details.

Kathryn Pace of Hampton has been elected president of the junior class. Frances Bass of News Ferry is vice-president; Anne Bulloch of Portsmouth is secretary; Mildred E. Rhodes of Newport News is treasurer; Evelyn Wolfe of Mount Jackson is business manager; and Julia Reynolds, Atlanta, Georgia, is sergeant-at-arms.

The junior class helped the freshmen to organize. Virginia Stark is president; Doris Bane, vice-president; Delphine Hurt, secretary; Dorothy Wheeler, treasurer; Toots Christian, sergeant-at-arms; and Mary Watt, business manager.