EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

THE TEACHER IN A CHANGING ERA

Lecturing on the general subject “American Inquisitors: a Commentary on Dayton and Chicago,” Mr. Walter Lippmann, chief editorial writer of the New York World and author of “The Stakes of Diplomacy” and “Liberty and the News,” recently delivered a series of addresses provided by the Page-Barbour Foundation at the University of Virginia.

“The advancement of human liberty,” said Mr. Lippmann, “has as a matter of practical politics consisted in building up centers of resistance against the absolutism of the reigning sovereigns. Whatever the sovereign, the program of liberty is to deprive him of arbitrary and absolute power.”

Mr. Lippmann pointed out that the conflict between fundamentalism and modernism is essentially irreconcilable and asserted that the teacher who wishes to understand his position in the modern state must abandon the notion that he is a neutral. In so far as he makes any impression whatsoever on his pupils, he must tend either to confirm or to weaken the ancient modes of thinking; he must either lead the child toward the modern spirit or away from it. He continued:

“The more clearly the teacher realizes the nature of this transition and its profound implications, the more successfully he will find his way through its perplexities. Only by understanding that he is in the midst of a revolutionary change, and that he is the responsible agent of that change, can he hope to find out what his duty is.

“The teacher as a teacher stands somewhere between the unlearned and the immature on the one hand and the learned and the mature on the other. He has, therefore, to take into account not merely the correct science of his time, but the minds and characters of his pupils.”

COMMONWEALTH FUND ENLARGES ITS SCOPE

With the discontinuance of the Joint Committee on Methods of Preventing Delinquency, the Commonwealth Fund, through its Division of Publication, has taken over the publications of the Joint Committee.

The Commonwealth Fund also announces the early publication of a pamphlet entitled “The Child Guidance Clinic and the Community.”

This pamphlet is available to those who are interested professionally in the development of community child guidance clinics. Teachers may address the office of the Division of Publications, 578 Madison Avenue, New York City.

RECENT AIDS TO CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Beatrice J. Servis of Los Angeles summarizes the reports of ten principal American cities on the outstanding recent benefits conferred upon classroom teachers by boards of education, as follows:

Seattle—sabbatical leave, demonstration schools, libraries.

Omaha—sick leave, tax levy fixed by state, board of education firm in fair salaries for teachers.

San Francisco—sick leave (five days full
pay, ten days half pay), leave of absence, increase of salary.

Kansas City—bonuses for professional training, sick leave (twenty days with no reduction of salary).

Norfolk—sabbatical leave.

Spokane—single salary based on teacher's training and experience.

Los Angeles—superintendent's advisory committee.

Denver—single salary, freedom in curriculum-making with teacher participation, sick leave (five days full pay).

Dallas—teacherages, insurance, sick benefits, sending delegates to the convention.

Chicago—no benefits!

ARE WE AS POOR AS WE SAY WE ARE?

For every $29.05 expected for school purposes in Virginia, residents of the state spend $100 for soft drinks, ice-cream, theatres, candy and chewing-gum, tobacco, sporting-goods and toys, jewelry, perfumes, and cosmetics.

For the nation as a whole the American people spend $32.29 for schools as against each $100 for these same luxuries.

Our neighboring state of North Carolina spends $53.98 as against our $29.05, while West Virginia spends $41.22.

Apparently Virginia people are willing to spend a larger proportion of their income on luxuries than are the people of West Virginia and North Carolina.

TWO NEW DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

W. S. Brent, former principal of Deep Creek High School, has been named division superintendent of Lancaster and Northumberland counties, and Tyler Miller has been named superintendent of Rappahannock and Warren counties.

Mr. Brent is a graduate of William and Mary College and comes to the superintendency after nine years in his present position.

Mr. Miller, who is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, succeeds the late H. E. Hite.

AWARD TO DR. DILLARD

The Harmon award made annually to the individual who has done most to improve race relations in the United States was given on March 18 in Washington to Dr. James Hardy Dillard, of Charlottesville.

Dr. Dillard is president of the Jeannes Foundation and rector of William and Mary College.

WANTED—A CLEARING-HOUSE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Urging the establishment of a Department of Education, with a Secretary in the President's cabinet, Superintendent William M. Davidson, of Pittsburg, chairman of the Legislative Commission of the National Education Association, said at the Boston meeting of that body:

"Millions of dollars a year could be saved by taxpayers of local school districts by the creation of a United States Department of Education, to act as a clearing-house of educational research and information, under a secretary in the President's Cabinet.

"We are not asking," he said further, "for federal control or direction of education. The Constitution guarantees that the states shall control their own schools. But school directors, administrators and teachers, and the people generally, who pay the bills, look to the Federal Government to do things that the states cannot do for themselves. One of these is to co-ordinate federal educational activities now scattered; another is to set up a clearing-house of information; another is to recognize the dignity of education by a place in the Cabinet."
CITY STATES PREDICTED

Formation of city states as the solution of the problems arising in a nation that is becoming predominantly urban was predicted by Professor Charles E. Merriam, Chairman of the Department of Political Science of the University of Chicago, in his recent Convocation address on “Metropolitan Regions.” Professor Merriam pointed out that there are seventeen metropolitan regions having a total population of 26,500,000, while seventeen states have a population of less than 1,000,000 and nine states a population of less than 500,000.

“Regions of the type of New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia; and London, Paris, and Berlin are unities in the economic sense and they also represent types of social and cultural unities,” Professor Merriam said. “But from the governmental point of view each of these regions is highly decentralized. In Greater Chicago, for example, there are not less than 1,500 independent governing agencies. It is obvious that some more compact form of organization is necessary to enable such groups to carry on their governmental functions effectively.

“The state has found difficulty in administering itself, to say nothing of the task of supervising the administration of its municipalities. It is too much to expect New York to supervise New York City, or Illinois to supervise Chicago, when these cities are half of the supervisory body itself. As a result, it is probable that in the near future there will be a strong plea for the organization of certain metropolitan regions as independent states.”

HOME ECONOMICS IN LAND-GRANT COTTAGES

The number of students of home economics in land-grant colleges of the United States has increased steadily since 1905 when the total enrollment was 717. In 1910 the number was 1617; in 1915 it was 4431; in 1920, 5988; and in 1925, 7393.

ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS

From the Schoolmaster and Woman Teacher's Chronicle, a London magazine, comes the following tabulation of advice—a new decalog—and more:

I. Thou shalt have other interests besides thy schoolroom.

II. Thou shalt not try to make of thy children little images, for they are a live little bunch, visiting the wriggling of their captivity upon you, their teacher, unto the last weary moment of the day; and showing interest and co-operation unto those who can give them reasonable freedom in working.

III. Thou shalt not scream the names of thy children in irritation, for they will not hold thee in respect if thou screamest their names in vain.

IV. Remember the last day of the week, to keep it happy.

V. Humor the feelings of thy children that their good will may speak well for thee in the little domain over which thou rulest.

VI. Thou shalt not kill one breath of stirring endeavor in the heart of a little child.

VII. Thou shalt not allow any unkindness of speech or action to enter the door of thy room.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal for the drudgery of many “papers” the precious hours that should be given to recreation, that thy strength and happiness may appear unto all that come within thy presence.

IX. Thou shalt not bear witness to too many “schemes of work,” for much scattered effort is a weariness to the soul and a stumbling block to weary fingers.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s room, nor her children, nor her manner, nor her system, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s, but work out thine own salvation with fear and trembling—only don’t let anyone know about the fear and trembling.
XI. Thou shalt laugh—when it rains, and wee, woolly ones muddy the floor, when it blows and doors bang, when little angels conceal their wings, and wriggle, when Tommy spills ink and Mary flops a tray of trailing letters; when visitors appear at the precise moment when all small heads have forgotten everything you thought they knew.

And again I say unto you, laugh, for upon these commandments hang all the law and the profits in thy schoolroom.

Our machinery is modern; but our institutions are medieval. They are changing—into what, we do not know. For the present we think of the process as the "deplorable loosening of modern life." Manners and morals, we say, are being "relaxed." We do not reflect when we say this that those manners and morals belong to an era which we snub with the epithet "dark ages."

C. E. Ayres, in Science the False Messiah

Speaking of fraternities, Dr. R. E. Blackwell, president of Randolph-Macon College at Ashland, made the following statement to the press recently. "Enemies of frats say they're undemocratic. They are. They say they're expensive. They are. They say they foster snobbishness and cliques among students. They do. But even with all that, they do a lot of good.

"Many fraternities bring up scholarship standards. Many of them require a far higher grade as a prerequisite of initiation than their universities require as a requisite for a student remaining in school.

"If we don't have fraternities, we must remember, we'll have cliques and snobbishness just the same."

To assist in the building of the new high school at Bedford City, a loan of $25,000 from the literary fund has been authorized by the State Board of Education.

THE READING TABLE

Important Magazine Articles

The ten outstanding magazine articles selected by the Franklin Square Council of Librarians from the April issues of magazines published in America, are as follows:

The Eighteenth Amendment is Void—Henry Alan Johnston in Century.
Business in a Presidential Year—David Friday in Review of Reviews.
Nomadic America's Changing Spending Habits—Frank E. Brimmer in Magazine of Business.
Spanish-American Literature—Frederick Lugiens in Yale Review.
Adolescent America—William B. Munroe in Survey Graphic.
The Deeper Significance of Prohibition—Henry Fairchild in Virginia Quarterly Review.

THE NEW VARIORUM EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE HAS ITS TWENTIETH VOLUME

With the appearance of "Coriolanus," edited by Horace Howard Furness, Jr., in the New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, the twentieth volume of this scholarly work is complete. Edited for over forty years by Dr. Horace Howard Furness, who upon his death bequeathed the task to his son, this critical heritage has become at once a staff and a mecca for lovers and students of the Stratford dramatist, as well as for painstaking producers of his plays.

"Who holds a volume holds the fruit of all past criticisms and comment on that play," said the late Talcott Williams in speaking of the Variorum Edition. This is made possible in "Coriolanus," as in each of the preceding nineteen volumes, by the thorough correlating of pointed, interesting