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Annual dues of the *Home Economics Clubs* of schools and colleges are three dollars, and should be sent to Mrs. P. P. Moody, Chr., Virginia Home Economics Association, State Teachers College, Harrisonburg, Va.

BOOKS

DRAMA FOR THE PLASTIC

THE ATLANTIC BOOK OF JUNIOR PLAYS. Edited by Charles Swain Thomas. Boston: The Atlantic Monthly Press. 1924. Pp. 320. \$1.40.

The thirteen plays included in this book of modern plays for junior high school children are all simple yet effective, and each has a fine literary tone. Either the child or the grown person who dips into its pages will be held by the charm of the collection.

The first play is a dramatization of *What Men Live By* adapted from the story by Leo Tolstoi. In a very inspiring introduction entitled *Appreciating the Drama* this play is enlarged as a basis for the study and appreciation of other plays. This analysis includes the visualizing of the scenery, actors, costumes, and voices; a method for character study; and some helpful suggestions as to the acting and writing of plays.

Russian, Old English, French, Spanish, American, and Biblical plays round out the collection. Some of those of a more serious nature are *Nerves*, *Jephthah's Daughter*, *A Minuet*, and *The Birthday of the Infanta*, while the balance is well preserved by the delightful comedy in *The Dyspeptic Ogre*, *A Marriage Proposal*, and *The Play of Saint George*. Oscar Wilde, Percy Mac Kaye, and John Farrar are some of the distinguished names from the list of authors.

Mr. Thomas states in his foreword that this collection is designed to meet the need of those in a still somewhat untutored and plastic stage, and to serve as an incentive to

a more complex study of the drama. He offers the truism that we must interest before we can instruct, and believes that the inherent dramatic instinct will find a wholesome training in the use of this collection of junior plays.

MAMIE OMOHUNDRO

BRIEF REVIEWS

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, by James Albert Woodburn and Thomas Francis Moran. New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1924. Pp. 504. \$1.48.

An elementary text in community civics, shot through with the idea that active co-operation is the most important of human relationships. In terms that young people will understand the authors talk of team work, of the idle poor and the idle rich, of practicing thrift, of keeping one's credit good. A set of continuity pictures, as they are called, illustrating the theme of each chapter, reinforces the ideal of co-operation and drives home its message.

PRECIS WRITING FOR AMERICAN SCHOOLS, edited by Samuel Thurber. Boston: The Atlantic Monthly Press. 1924. Pp. 150. 90 cents.

Aimed very surely at the school which prepares for college, which—more specifically—prepares students to pass the College Entrance Board examinations in English; for abstracting or summarizing exercises are increasingly emphasized in these examinations.

Of course there is much value in the summary, and it is by no means a new device for the English teacher. From its use comes a threefold ability: to read carefully, to think precisely, and to write accurately. The 160 exercises offered here by an experienced teacher will be the more valuable because of the explanatory helps and the sample summaries.

Mr. Thurber justifies the word "precis" on the ground of its currency in composition teaching as practiced in England.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS ALUMNÆ

NEWS OF THE CAMPUS

February seems to be a favorite month for trips. The Star-Daughters made their invasion of Southwest Virginia and Tennessee; the Glee Club sang its way into the hearts of Tidewater Virginians; the entire music department repaired to Richmond where the Virginia Music Teachers Association held annual session under the guidance of its president, Miss Edna T. Shaef-