

including newspapers were last year 952, while the mortality during the same year was 942, an interesting sidelight on the great number of changes in a year where the total publications varied only ten titles.—Abstract of address by Frederick W. Faxon before American Library Association.

REMARKABLE PHOTOGRAPHIC LENS AT YERKES

Development of a new photographic lens which will depict as many as 100,000 stars on a plate has been completed by Professor Frank E. Ross, of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago. With the new lens Professor Ross has secured what is considered the best photograph of the greater part of the constellation of Orion, which formed the frontispiece of a recent number of the *Astrophysical Journal* published by the University of Chicago Press.

The new lens covers twenty-four degrees of the sky and the images resulting are unusually sharp, bringing out many details of luminous and non-luminous nebulous matter more clearly than they have been revealed on any previous photographs with which the Yerkes observers are familiar. The picture of the Orion nebulae was taken by Dr. Ross in January of this year, with an exposure of five hours.

BOOKS

A TIME-SAVING TEXTBOOK

COLLEGE ENGLISH COMPOSITION. *A Handbook of Writing and Speech*. By Edwin Francis Shewmake and Carl Lamson Carmer. Richmond: The Johnson Publishing Company, 1927. Pp. 405. \$1.60.

The teacher of freshman composition is confronted with two problems—both somewhat baffling to him: effective presentation of his materials and, from the avalanche of text books that descend upon him, choice of the *best* one for his purpose. What he desires in his book will depend somewhat upon the time allotted to cover the subject

and upon the varying needs of his students. In any case the alert teacher will keep his eye on his students. He will want to win their attention and good will; for, failing in this, he knows full well they will be unlikely to apply in everyday writing and speech what he has taught them in the class room. To satisfy him in this, the book must be practical in matter and manner, and it must possess literary charm. Moreover, the busy instructor will most certainly prefer that book that enables him to economize his time and conserve his energy. With this feature in mind, he will insist that the material be brief but comprehensive, and be logically arranged; that essentials stand out in bold relief; and that a system of reference be ready to hand, be simple, but at once adequate and engaging. Shewmake and Carmer's *College English Composition*, "A Handbook of Writing and Speech," meets these tests so well as to commend itself strongly for use in freshman classes.

CHARLES H. HUFFMAN

THE SILENT READING HOUR, *Primary Book*. By Guy Thomas Buswell and William H. Wheeler. Chicago: Wheeler Publishing Co., 1926. Pp. 30. Twelve cents.

This reader is designed to be used with beginners. The subject matter deals with experiences common to all children. The material is so arranged that they may have practice in both oral and silent reading with frequent review lessons. The vocabulary is sufficiently small for the children to gain mastery over it; it is simple enough for them to gain independence; and the illustrations are vivid enough to make them want to read.

M. L. S.

NEW PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR HIGH SCHOOL, *Second Course*, by William Dodge Lewis and James Fleming Hoscic. New York: American Book Company, 1927. Pages 544.

This new book is designed to supplement the first Lewis and Hoscic book in high school English. It therefore presents material especially suitable for students in the

third and fourth years of high school. The subject matter amplifies some of the material of the first book, but it gives entirely new material as well. Chapters on Reading and Reporting, School Publications, and Poetry are new and practical. An excellent review of grammar fills a need for the high school senior student.

C. A.

PLANE GEOMETRY. By D. Meade Bernard. Richmond: Johnson Publishing Company. 1927. 334 pages.

A high-school text that makes plane geometry a science instead of the mystery it has too often been. At every turn the student is encouraged to think for himself. In fact the charts which give a preview of each book, the method of proof submitted before the formal proof with each theorem, and the abundance of supplementary material make it almost impossible for him not to think.

K. M. A.

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

THE SMEDLEY AND OLSEN NEW PRIMER. By Eva A. Smedley and Martha C. Olsen. Chicago: Hall and McCreary Company. 1926. Pp. 123. 60 cents.

THE SMEDLEY AND OLSEN FIRST READER. By Eva A. Smedley and Martha C. Olsen. Chicago: Hall and McCreary Company. 1926. Pp. 192. 64 cents.

In these readers for beginners the authors have cleverly and interestingly combined folk and original materials to meet the interests of all children.

They have made opportunities for review without interfering with the content. They have interspersed both books with poetry which is suitable to young children.

The illustrations are especially pleasing and childlike.

GUIDANCE OF CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH. Edited by Benjamin C. Gruenberg. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1927. Pp. 324. \$1.50.

A source book in child study edited by Dr. Gruenberg working under the direction of The Child Study Association of America.

The quotations represent the best from current as well as classical literature. Teachers and parents will want to own the book and refer to it frequently.

THE NERVOUS CHILD. By Hector Charles Cameron. London: Oxford University Press. 1924. Pp. 233. \$1.75.

A clear non-technical discussion of child care. The author's viewpoint is so sane and wholesome that the book can be freely recommended for those who know little psychology; on the other hand his grasp of the problem is so thorough that specialists in the field will profit by reading him.

OUR LANGUAGE. By James P. Kinard, Mary Brown, and Florence Hopkins Rogers. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1927. Book One, 350 pp.; Book Two, 386 pp.; Book Three, 223 pp.

A new set of language texts for the grades with many strong points. The vocabulary training is effective; there are plenty of things to do, including objective tests; certain skills are systematically built up, for instance making tables; the poetry is delightful, with its even balance between old favorites and the best current verse; and the page make-up is excellent in all three books. The series is weakened by an almost total disregard of the development of the paragraph in a series of definite teaching units.

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES. Edited by Walter L. Bennett. Charles E. Merrill Company. 1927. Pp. 227. 80 cents.

Experience shows that editions of Old Testament stories hold a deserved place in the course for high school students of literature. Mr. Bennett's edition has qualities that recommend it to the teacher and to the student seeking variety of selection and interest. The paragraphs introducing each selection give excellent opportunity for vitalizing the stories by connecting them with the present, and suggestive questions aid in this process.

C. A.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. By William Shakespeare. Edited by Milton M. Smith. New York: Charles E. Merrill Company. 1927. Pp. 165.

"The play's the thing," and the desire to play is as old as human nature. Milton E. Smith's edition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is an excellent one by reason of its emphasis on the basic purpose of any drama. The notes and questions develop this idea by revealing character personality and effective points in the action of the play, at the same time suggesting the influence of background on the characters in the story. The editor's aids are directly planned to help in the staging of the play. Study of this drama in accordance with Mr. Smith's suggestions should bring from the students an eager "Let's play it."

C. A.

AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. Arranged According to Seasons. By Leonora Anderson. New York: A. S. Barnes & Company. 1927. Pp. 134. \$2.00.

This book gives satisfaction to the physical director because it leads gradually and naturally to the big games of each season through a series of minor games. The basic skills are learned under conditions so simple as to make them easily understood. The skill tests that are given in Part IV are of great value to the teacher who wants to make the daily game period count.

TEACHING ENGLISH IN THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. By Edward Harlan Webster and Dora V. Smith. Yonkers-on-Hudson: World Book Company. 1927. Pp. 404. \$2.00.

This is a book for teachers and a good one, the best of its kind this reviewer has seen. Full of good, tested exercises, intelligent in its presentation of the results of careful study and planning, it takes care of the needs of the imaginative as well as the factual nature of the child. It provides for the social demands of young life by means of the group method, both in the small project and in the intensive project, and in this connection it devotes special consideration to the unit plan and to the stages in an intensive project.

An excellent appendix, containing suggested projects, illustrative selections for the motivation of composition work, book and magazine lists for students, makes this book still more valuable to the teacher of English in a junior high school.

CHARLES ANTHONY

EGYPTIANS OF LONG AGO. By Louise Mohr, Carlton Washburne, and Willard W. Beatty. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company. 1926. Pp. 154. Paper.

An experimental edition of a social study unit used in the Winnetta schools. Organized around problems and well illustrated. Adapted for use in individualized instruction or the Dalton Plan.

THINKING, SPEAKING, AND WRITING. By Hallie Lee Jameson, Donald L. Clark, and Benjamin Veit. New York: Silver, Burdett and Co. 1927. Book One, 322 pp.; Book Two, 371 pp.; Book Three, 428 pp.

A conservative series of texts for the junior high school, with plenty of grammar.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. By Joseph Roemer and Charles Forrest Allen. Boston: D. C. Heath and Co. 1926. Pp. 333.

One of the very best books in the field. The treatment combines theory and actual practice. The book is well written, and offers much specific help in the way of outlines and programs of work. The bibliography is exhaustive and well annotated.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS ALUMNÆ

NEWS OF THE CAMPUS

There were more new faces than usual in the summer faculty for 1927.

Dr. Edwin F. Shewmake, of Davidson College, N. C., was a new member of the English department. Miss Margaret McAdory, of Birmingham, Alabama, who has taught here before, was in the Art department. Miss Charles Anthony, of John Mar-

shall High School, Richmond, was also a member of the English department. Miss Edith Barger, of the Wilson Normal School, Washington, D. C., taught geography, and Miss Florence Gustafson, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was a member of the biology department. Miss Johnston, of New York, taught classes in chemistry. Mrs. Florence M. Lohman, principal of an elementary school in Richmond, and Miss Lena Sanger, principal of Bridgewater High School, were both in the education department as during previous summers. Miss Maizie McLane came as art teacher from the Textile High School in New York City. Miss Augusta Kreiner returned to H. T. C. from Washington to teach in the physical education department.

Two alumnae were on the staff. Miss Edith Ward, Norfolk, of the class of 1925, again this summer taught physical education. Miss Elizabeth Rolston, who graduated in 1926, and now a teacher in Amherst, was the college librarian during the first term of the summer session.

Student activities were more vigorous than in summers previous, and the atmosphere of the entire campus was more lively. Jerrine Patterson was the capable president of Student Government; Mary Hartman was vice-president; and Elsie Leake was secretary-treasurer.

Mildred Williamson, Mary Botts Miller, Mary Stafford, Daphne Weddle, Gibson Kitchen, Leona Kackley, Olive Thomas, Mary Gore, Agnes Wade, and Stella Block comprised the Student Council.

The Y. W. C. A. meetings and socials meant a great deal to the summer students, and the session started off right with a picnic supper fostered by the Y. W. Interesting programs were presented at the regular services which proved to be quite helpful and entertaining.

The assembly hours were pleasantly passed with such attractive speakers as Dr. J. J. Rives of the local Methodist Church, Dr. Price, a missionary to China, Mr. George