

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

Published monthly by the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Entered as second-class matter March 13, 1920, at the post office at Harrisonburg, Virginia, under the act of March 3, 1879.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

A NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT HAS WON SUPPORT

The education of school children in the principles and habits of safety is a national issue of first rank. An appalling annual toll of child life to the automobile, to the railroad, and to hazards even in the home give the question a claim upon the the attention of everyone, but fortunately the cause makes more than its humanitarian appeal. It is an economic concern as well. Industry has come to recognize the boy as the father of the man not only through a process of development but also by his direct influences upon the parent. In fact, a prominent safety man has written—"I have discovered that big general managers of industry, presidents and other executives are more interested in what I say about school safety than in anything else that I say."

Success has won the school its recognition as an agency which can solve the problem. The schools of St. Louis were pioneers in the field and in that city a single year of safety teaching reduced the fatal accidents to school children by more than sixty per cent and helped to make a notable record for the entire population. Many other cities have had similar experiences.

Not only is safety education effective in

saving lives but also it makes better citizens. Educators advocate the work as part and parcel of the nation-wide effort, backed by government authority, to socialize the curriculum—to replace mental gymnastics by the affairs of life. Obviously there is reason to teach reading, writing, arithmetic and the like, in part by means of facts and ideas which will save life.

Police Commissioner Enright predicted recently that 25,000 persons will be injured by automobiles in New York City this year. Of these unfortunates 1,100 will meet their death. One-half of the victims will be children, of whom 550 will be killed and 12,000 injured—many being crippled for life. This damage will be due to just a single cause, but no other figures need be cited. The situation is a grave one and yet the schools of New York City have no intensive safety program in effect.

For six months the Safety Institute has been preparing itself to rise to the emergency. It has collected detailed information by making a painstaking survey of safety teaching in the United States. Facts have been gathered from the School Superintendents of nearly a hundred cities, from State Superintendents of Education, from scores of organizations which have co-operated with schools and from individuals who have participated in the work. The literature too has been searched.

A second source of information that yielded suggestions of unusual significance was a contest in which teachers submitted examples of their methods of presenting safety, in competition for prizes offered last December through the National Bureau of Education. As the local judge of this material, the Institute was able to learn at first hand what New York teachers do and what they need.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS AIDES IN REHABILITATION OF DISABLED VETERANS

The United States Civil Service Commission states that there is urgent need at hospitals of the United States Public Health Service and establishments of the United States Veterans' Bureau for reconstruction aides in physiotherapy and occupational therapy in connection with the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, sailors, and marines.

The Commission will receive applications for these positions until further notice. Applicants are not required to report for a written examination, but are rated upon the subjects of education, training experience, and physical ability.

Full information concerning salaries and requirements, and application blanks, may be secured from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the board of civil service examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city.

OUR WORST FOREIGN AMBASSADOR—THE AMERICAN 'MOVIE'

That the American movie has the unenviable reputation of being the worst ambassador Uncle Sam ever permitted to go abroad, is the verdict of Col P. E. Holp, the well-known lecturer for the Society for Visual Education. "Sometimes this misrepresentation has been unintentional, but too often it has been deliberate and even wilful," declared Colonel Holp.

"These false representatives of Americans have decreased foreign travel to our shores, lessened the sale of honest goods made in the U. S. A., and in some cases complicated negotiations on international affairs."

To bear out his point of view Colonel Holp quoted a statement made by Prof. Walter B. Pitkin of Columbia University: "The American motion picture has, from all I can gather from both natives and Americans who have been studying it in Japan, China and India, done more to blacken the reputation of the white race in general and the United States in particular than all the malice and libel of the most savage anti-American propagandists."

An educated and wealthy woman of Java, who had been deeply impressed with the American republic from her reading, was planning to visit our shores, according to Colonel Holp, but after seeing film after film filled with robberies, hold-ups, murders and similar "fast action" incidents, she gave up her visit. There are doubtless thousands of such cases.

"American movies are too raw for the South Sea Islanders," recently declared Dr. Albert W. Palmer of Honolulu at a meeting in Orchestra Hall. "The films shown there misrepresent American standards of life.

They are often so objectionable that they are stopped before they are finished. It gives those polyglot peoples a deplorable impression of America to see pictures of vamp actresses. If American producers realized this they would surely put on a different class of pictures."

"The fact is," continued Colonel Holp. "so many complaints have come from foreign lands that our state department at Washington has begun to take a hand in the matter. In the case of one super-production purporting to cost one million dollars, it was learned that the prints for foreign consumption were utterly unfit for presentation in this country. 'The scenes shot for the foreign market could not be shown here without causing a popular riot,'" was the Committee's report. Yet such 'raw' stuff as this has been permitted to represent us abroad."

Doubtless the producers of such films have been doing what they call a prosperous business, but business of this type does not mean prosperity for the country at large. Constructive industrial and educational pictures from American studios will have to work overtime for years to come to offset the harm which has already been done abroad.

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN UNION

The twenty-ninth annual convention of the International Kindergarten Union met at Louisville, Kentucky, April 24-28. There were large delegations from many states, and several foreign countries were represented at this meeting. The reports given on Delegate's Day and in the Business Session made clear a very substantial increase in the interest shown in the education of younger children and the importance that is being attached to this phase of the child's development.

In my reports on the work of the Virginia Kindergarten-Primary Association, I outlined the progress made by our organization during the past two years. Copies of the proceedings of the meetings will be published and sent to all members of the International Kindergarten Union. Others who wish copies may obtain them for twenty-five cents by writing to Miss May Murray, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, Springfield, Massachusetts. The following officers were elected:

President, Miss Luella Palmer, New York City.

First Vice-President, Miss Caroline Barbour, Superior, Wisconsin.

Second Vice-President, Miss Margaret Pennel, Kansas City, Missouri.

Recording Secretary, Miss Margaret Trace, Cleveland, Ohio.

Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, Miss May Murray, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Auditor, Miss Mary White, Fortworth, Texas.

One resolution of interest suggested a pilgrimage to France during the summer of 1923 to encourage the first class of American taught kindergarten teachers who are to be graduated from a school established during the war.

The meeting was full of inspiration and one of which all interested in better conditions for the development of the young child may be justly proud.

PAULINE B. WILLIAMSON

President Virginia Kindergarten-Primary Association.

FEATURES OF THE N. E. A. MEETING AT BOSTON, JULY 2-8

Dr. W. G. Cove, President of the National Association of Teachers of England and Wales, will make a special trip to America to be present at the sixtieth annual meeting of the National Education Association at Boston, Massachusetts, July 2 to 8, according to a statement given out at headquarters of the National Education Association here today. Dr. Cove is well-known because of his leadership in the fight for the Fisher Education Bill in 1918. This Bill may be called the Magna Charta of free public education in England. Recently when enormous reductions in the amounts spent for public education in England were proposed in the famous Geddes Report, it was Dr. Cove and his organization of over 116,000 teachers that awakened the public to the necessity for maintaining an adequate school system as the only sound basis of National well-being and prosperity.

The general theme of the program for the Boston meeting is "Education and the Democratic Awakening." It will emphasize the connection between the great democratic impulse that has followed the war and the intensified interest in every phase of educational endeavor, which is evident not only

in America but throughout the world.

Among those who will address the sessions are: Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; Honorable Alvin M. Owsley, National Director of the Americanism Commission of the American Legion; Mrs. Maud Wood Park, President of the National League of Women Voters; Mr. Frederick J. Libby, Secretary of the National Council for the Reduction of Armaments, Honorable Channing H. Cox, Governor of Massachusetts, who will welcome the teachers to Boston and New England; and leading educators from every section of the United States.

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THE BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE TEACHING OF GENERAL SCIENCE

As an interpreter of the most extensive experiment in science now in progress, the distinguished author, Dr. W. L. Eikenberry, a pioneer in the field of general science, deserves the grateful acknowledgements of those whose problem it is to solve the question of secondary school science teaching. The book which he is just giving to the public represents an attempt to show the character of the movement for more effective science teaching, the connection of this movement with the past history of science teaching, the relation of general science to the established sciences, and the place of this latest of scientific developments in the new science of education.

In examining into the status of the two functions of science, we find that investigation, resulting in the discovery of new knowledge, has so completely absorbed the time and energies of scientists, that the equally important work of diffusing the new knowledge among the masses has fallen far behind. There are, however, signs of a revival of interest in the teaching of science. The science of science teaching is offering an appealing set of problems no less difficult, interesting, and important than those of pure science; and a technique is being built up whereby these problems may be attacked experimentally.

It seems quite apparent that the science of

THE TEACHING OF GENERAL SCIENCE, by W. L. Eikenberry. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1922. 169 pages, \$2.00.