

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

WHEN TEXTBOOKS ARE OFFERED FOR STATE ADOPTION

ON the heels of numerous book men who have been visiting teachers of the state in the interest of their various publications, comes an article in *The Bookman* for February 1923, entitled "The Romance of Textbooks" by Robert Cortes Holliday. Mr. Holliday is one of the authors of a new volume called "The Business of Writing." He points out that today the textbook publisher "keeps pretty close tab on the whole field of potential authors of textbooks: anyone engaged in the work of education who is likely to have up his sleeve a book on his subject is finger-printed, so to say, by the educational publishers."

The publisher and the author, Mr. Holliday reminds us, work usually very close together in the production of a textbook; and it is hinted that sometimes the book is practically rewritten by the publishing house.

"The rewards from a popular novel are all well enough in their way, but the author of a successful textbook or two has no end of a gold mine. Textbooks are not luxuries but bread." Mr. Holliday speaks of one textbook which has been going for seventeen years and last year its sale was a hundred thousand. "Such books," says the author, "have something of the durability of a piece of real estate."

"The ranks of educational book travelers are recruited in some measure from the field of teachers. Occasionally it happens that a man who has been a teacher, and has become a textbook traveler, later returns to the teaching profession. He is in very much the same atmosphere all the while. Whether or not they have ever been teachers the main body of them are, in the fullest meaning of the term, 'college men.' And in their own world there is specialization. Among textbook travelers there are, for instance, 'high school men,' as distinct from the representative of college textbooks.

"The business of educational book travelers is to circulate around among the schools, colleges, and universities; they have no concern with bookstores. Their personal friends

are largely among the teaching staffs of educational institutions. They call upon them and visit them; are entertained by them, and entertain them. A general publisher has a large corps of traveling salesmen when he has five or six; but a going educational list is likely to be represented by twelve or fifteen travelers.

"The textbook traveler knows thoroughly the books he handles. He can expound to his hearer exactly why the book of which he speaks is (in the opinion of the publisher) superior to other books of its kind now current. He can follow through the book he has in hand page by page, illustrating point by point its peculiar features as compared with the methods employed by other volumes. He is familiar with the machinery of education."

JOHN ESTEN COOKE, VIRGINIAN

EVEN to well-read Virginians, Dr. John Owen Beaty's book, with the above title, will be a revelation. All of us have heard of John Esten Cooke; some of us have read his "Surry of Eagle's Nest" and perhaps "Mohun," "Hammer and Rapier," "Virginia," "Stories of the Old Dominion," and one or two volumes of "The Virginia Comedians"; but hardly any of us, even the professors in colleges, could name half of his thirty-one books or a tenth of his magazine articles. Dr. Beaty does not give us a complete bibliography of Cooke's magazine articles, but he does catalog nearly one hundred and fifty. And they nearly all relate to Virginia people, Virginia places, and incidents that took place in Virginia. After reading this book and looking over the lists of Cooke's writings at the end, one is almost inevitably driven to a conclusion and a wish. If Cooke had written as carefully as some others with perhaps less native talent than he possessed have done, Virginia would probably be as well known today in the world of letter as is New England.

Cooke was a Cavalier, figuratively and literally. His soul revelled in the romantic the stately, and the spectacular; yet he had capacity for painstaking research and the keen

JOHN ESTEN COOKE, VIRGINIAN, by John O. Beaty. New York: Columbia University Press. 1922. Pp. 173. \$2.00.

conscience of a Puritan. The majesty and conservatism of the law, the stories and the glories of olden days, the magic beauty of the Valley, the dashing exploits of Jeb Stuart and Turner Ashby, days and nights in the cavalry saddle, love, religion, tragedy, all touched his life and enriched his experience and his imagination. High-toned and courteous, pious and introspective almost to a fault, Cooke reveals himself to a degree in his published works but even more in his letters and his diary. The latter, as well as the former, Dr. Beaty has presented to the reader with remarkable thoroughness and with admirable taste. Dr. Robert P. P. Cooke and Mrs. Charles Lee, children of the novelist, generously placed at the author's disposal eight manuscript volumes and hundreds of letters and other papers which belonged to their father. Cooke's nieces, Miss Mariah P. Duval and Mrs. Carter H. Harrison, likewise furnished him with manuscripts and instructed him with reminiscences of their uncle. Many others, far and near, have aided the task of love—the bringing again to his own people the full-length portrait and the versatile achievements of this charming Virginian.

The following paragraph, quoted from Dr. Beaty's life of Cooke, will tell us some interesting facts and will at the same time illustrate the interesting style of the narrative:

"Fighting as he did at First Manassas and surrendering at Appomattox, Cooke always considered it remarkable that he never received a wound. In his diary he checked off his fallen friends and relatives, and recounted his escapes. Once a bullet struck a fence but a few inches from his head; again, he was stunned by a bursting shell and was covered by the thrown-up earth. It was, however, an old habit to close every entry with an expression of hope in God, and he saw fulfilled his reiterated wish to be allowed to return to his beloved Valley. After Stuart's death at Yellow Tavern, Cooke had been assigned to the staff of General Pendleton and was his inspector-general of horse artillery when the end came. Paroled at Appomattox, he is said to have buried his silver spurs upon the field to avoid delivering them to his late foes."

This is the first definitive study of Cooke and his literary background. It is a fine con-

tribution to the history and the life of the Old Dominion. It should be in every library and school in the state.

JOHN W. WAYLAND

SKILL IN ACCURATE JUDGMENTS

TEACHING TO THINK, by Julius Boraas. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1922. Pp. 289. \$1.60.

"Can a person teach so well that the world will remember him for twenty-three hundred years?" asks the author in his first chapter of *Teaching to Think*. He then shows how Socrates made himself famous by helping young people to think.

The purpose of this book is "to discover the principal types of thinking which are required in everyday life, and to indicate practical ways and means for their development in the ordinary school."

Each of the fourteen chapters begins with a stated problem. For example, in Chapter III, entitled The Development of Individual Judgment, the problem stated is: How can a person develop skill in rendering accurate judgments?

"The ability to exercise good judgment in regard to affairs of practical life is an important element of successful living and should be emphasized much more than it has been in our schools. Who does most of the judging in the ordinary school? But will any amount of practice by the teacher develop skill in the pupil? A practical teacher of agriculture today would not expect to develop his students into good judges of corn or stock by doing all the judging himself."

At the close of each chapter is found a list of "thought exercises." A casual glance over some of these lists finds many thought provoking questions bearing closely on the preceding chapter or amplifying some individual problem that has been discussed in this chapter.

CLYDE P. SHORTS

FOR EXPRESSION TEACHERS

DIALECTS FOR ORAL INTERPRETATION, by Gertrude E. Johnson. New York: The Century Co. 1922. pp. 309. \$1.75.

The lack of selections in dialect both for study in expression and dramatic literature, as well as for programs, has been a source of

great worry to teachers and readers, and it is with delight that I recommend this volume of dialects for oral interpretation. One of the most valuable parts of the book, it seems to me, is the five lectures or discussions explaining dialect in regard to its meaning and significance, how to study a dialect, the advantage in the interpretative use of dialect, and the monologue and its interpretation.

The author has made a special effort to include good selections and to secure variety, and at the same time has provided practical instruction necessary for the interpretation of dialect forms.

Among the authors will be found the names of universal favorites—Robert Burns, T. A. Daly, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, William D. Drummond, Moira O'Neill, Arthur Stringer, William F. Kirk, and many others of popular appeal. There are more than eighty selections, also four one-act plays, valuable lists of books and authors and a bibliography of 400 selections.

R. S. HUDSON

RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS, by E. H. Taylor and Fiske Allen. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1919. Book I, 210 pages, 92 cents. Book II, 251 pages, \$1.00.

Thorough grounding in the principles of mathematics for the seventh and eighth grades, and not strictly arithmetical. Superior preparation, therefore, for algebra in a half-year and plane geometry in a half-year.

SELECTIONS FROM OVID, by Francis W. Kelsey and Jared W. Scudder. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1922. Pp. 196. \$1.00.

Professor Kelsey's well-known book adapted to the new requirements of the College Entrance Examination Board. In addition to the seven prescribed selections, two are added for sight reading.

LIFE: HOW IT COMES, by Stephen Reid-Heyman. New York: Robert M. McBride & Co. 1922. Pp. 174. \$1.50.

An elementary but complete presentation of the reproduction of living organisms. A variety of plant and animal families are examined. The book is intended for children and the subject matter is admirably presented.

DRAWING COURSE, by Charles Lederer and S. Lincoln Smith. Chicago: Hall & McCreary Company.

A set of eight loose-leaf books in each of which are thirty lessons. Book One contains strong brush animal sketches, Book Two creative landscape designs, Book Four good action and movement in children's figures. The last

two books make good use of Japanese prints. The hints for presentation of problems should be generally helpful.

EASY EXPERIMENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE, by Herbert McKay. New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch. 1922. Pp. 144. 50 cents.

Intended for pupils of any age, "but the younger the better," the author says. Nearly all the apparatus used is home-made. Lessons deal with air, with water, with electrified things, with mechanics, with light and heat, and with everyday science in the home.

SHEET-METAL PATTERN DRAFTING AND SHOP PROBLEMS, by James S. Daugherty. Peoria, Illinois: The Manual Arts Press. 1922. Pp. 173. \$2.50.

A textbook for students' use, adapted for vocational, trade, technical, and high schools or wherever pattern drafting and shop work are taught in a systematic manner.

THE FORTUNATE DAYS, by Ethel May Gate. Boston: Silver, Burdett and Co. 1922. Pp. 128.

THE BROOM FAIRIES and Other Stories, by Ethel M. Gate. Boston: Silver, Burdett and Co. 1922. Pp. 110.

Both are charmingly illustrated editions of fairy stories, originally published by the Yale University Press, and now for the first time available in inexpensive school editions.

HANDBOOK FOR BUSINESS LETTER WRITERS, by Louise E. Bonney and Carolyn Percy Cole. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 1922. Pp. 98. 80 cents.

Business letters, printed in fac-smile, with analysis in the margin, are numerous and well-selected. Attention is paid to sentences and diction.

COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC, by William M. Tanner. Boston: Ginn and Co. 1922. Pp. 549.

A very complete textbook for high schools, which includes numerous exercises to promote self-cultivation in English. There are twenty-one striking full-page illustrations. The four parts of the book center around 1) an introduction to oral and written expression, 2) the units of composition, 3) the four forms of discourse, and 4) a review of grammar and spelling.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH, by William D. Miller and Margaret O. Palmer. Chicago: Lyons and Carnahan. 1918. Pp. 502.

This book stresses the importance of the card index, the dictionary, the periodical, in teaching pupils correct English expression. Part II consists of over a hundred pages devoted to technical grammar and punctuation.

BEING GOOD TO BEARS, and other True Animal Stories, by Enos A. Mills. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1919. Pp. 85. 49 cents.

Five stories, simply and attractively told, about animals that live in the Rocky Mountains.