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RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST
TO TEACHERS

WHO'S WHO AND WHY IN AFTER-WAR EDUCATION, compiled by the staff of the Institute for Public Service. New York City. 1921. 432 pages. (\$6.00).

The purpose of this volume was to try to show what advance steps were taken during the period immediately following the Great War. This period will no doubt always be considered unique in that for the first time perhaps in the history of education, educators bent their energies to supply deficiencies and bring about reforms disclosed in a war period. The method used was to send a lengthy questionnaire to a large number of educators and others whose work touched the educational problems, and tabulate in brief form, following a table of abbreviations, the more important activities of those reporting. An index is provided both to names and topics and a great amount of information and suggestion is thus made available. Naturally many of the more prominent educators failed to answer, while there is some evidence of over-estimate of contributions on the part of smaller men.

The book is about half given over to a variety of other interesting and useful data, including a bibliography of standard tests, a list of educational journals, a list of educational associations, and numerous illustrations and tables showing the progress in American education in recent years. This material is hard to get at because the table of contents is unnecessarily brief and it is not indexed. However, those interested will glean many a valuable hint in these digests of catalogs and other school publications that otherwise would have been out of reach.

W. J. GIFFORD

ONE-ACT PLAYS BY MODERN AUTHORS, by Helen Louise Cohen. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 342 pages. (\$1.60).

The one-act play aims at a solitary, distinct impression. It is a new form of drama, and a new form of literature. The one-act play has many structural features in common with the short story; its plot must from beginning to end be dominated by a single theme. The success of a one-act play is judged not by its conformity to any set of hard fast rules, but by its power to interest, enlighten and hold an audience.

This is a collection of well chosen one-act plays which will bring the student in touch with contemporary dramatists of standing. The plays in this book may be acted as well as read, and in reading them, the student will be instilled with a love for what is beautiful and uplifting in the drama. It will prove most helpful to those groups who produce plays, and will also be a help to those who like to experiment with dramatic composition. The following are a few plays found in the book:

The Perriot of the Minute, a dramatic fantasy by Dowson; The Maker of Dreams, by Oliphant Down—a charming play, the odd mixture of fantasy and realism is admirably managed; Spreading the News, by Lady Gregory—a very interesting play; lifelike and humorous; a much-ado-about-nothing picture of the effect of gossip in a little town; Riders to the Sea, by John M. Synge—a powerful play, a tragedy, yet possible for amateurs playing sincerely because it is so simple in form.

RUTH S. HUDSON

SELECTED STORIES FROM KIPLING, edited by William Lyon Phelps. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co. 1921. 355 pages. (\$1.25).

The happy faculty of seasoning his scholarship with ease and good taste, never with pedantry, makes Yale's popular professor a well-qualified Kipling editor. He has gathered here thirteen Kipling short stories which will please the average reader, whom he takes himself to represent; and those of us who might wish for the inclusion of this or the other story he disarms by saying "our space is limited; for every additional story one now in this volume would have to be cast out. Which shall it be? that tale of love and death, 'Without Benefit of Clergy'? that masterpiece of flaming imagination, 'The Man Who Would Be King'?—and so on through the list.

The stories are not annotated, but the eight-page introduction is a brief and wise beginning. One is struck by the quick phrases with which Phelps gets at the heart of the different stories. The collection consists of "The Man Who Would Be King," "The Drums of the Fore and Aft," "The Phantom Rickshaw," "Wee Willie Winkie," "The Courting of Dinah Shadd," "The Man Who Was," "Without Benefit of Clergy," "The Incarnation of Krishna Mulvaney," "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," "The Brushwood Boy," "William the Conqueror," "They," and "An Habitation Enforced."

But certainly Professor Phelps would have included that children's story, so full of the wisdom of the ages, "The Cat That Walked By Himself,"—if only there could have been fourteen!

C. T. LOGAN

ADVANCED LESSONS IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH, by Emma Miller Bolenius. New York: American Book Company. 1921. 414 pages.

Like *Elementary Lessons in Everyday English* this is a textbook based on the project plan, offering splendid material for two years of the upper elementary grades, or junior high school.

The author emphasizes the fact that we "learn by doing" and keeps constantly before the teacher and pupils the actual language needs of everyday life. Some of the special features are: the socialized recitation, training in thought-getting and organization, supervised class work, and correlation of other school activities. The keynote of the entire course is "repeated practice, well motivated".

MARGARET V. HOFFMAN

FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, by Thomas Harrison Reed. Yonkers-on-Hudson, N. Y.: World Book Company. 1921. Revised edition. 534 pages. (\$2.20)

To help make "better citizens and better government", not merely to present the "principles of governmental organization and activity", is the purpose of the author of this book. Undoubtedly this purpose will be realized to a considerable degree.

The opening chapter, "Government, and Why We Study It," is an excellent introduction, and gives a thoughtful answer to the question. The book is then divided into six parts, as follows:—"The Background of American Government", "Parties and Elections", "State Government", "Local Government", "Government of the United States", and "The Functions of Government". A great deal of attention is given to "Functions of Government;" this chapter should give the student a good grasp of the actual government under which he is living, how it works and what it does. The book is well written throughout and is very suitable for advanced high school work, or even for a college course, particularly for those who will pursue the subject no further.

Mention should also be made of the illustrations, which show careful and thoughtful selection. Quite a number depict recent events. Another commendable feature, in addition to the marginal paragraph topics, is "Suggestions for Further Study" and a list of topics suitable for reference study which are found at the close of each chapter.

RAYMOND C. DINGLEDINE

EARLY EUROPEAN HISTORY, by Hutton Webster. New York: D. C. Heath & Co. 1917. 753 pages.

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY, by Hutton Webster. New York: D. C. Heath & Co. 1917. 671 pages.

Early European History, by Hutton Webster is a volume of 725 pages, not including the appendix and the index. It begins with a chapter on prehistoric life; takes up the beginnings of real history in the second chapter; emphasizes, in ancient times, the contributions of Greece and Rome to civilization; and ends with the 17th century.

Modern European History, by the same author, contains 646 pages to the appendix and index, and is a companion volume to the foregoing one. It begins with a review of the 17th century, pointing out the foundations of modern Europe, and ends with an outline of the Great War and the League of Nations.

Both volumes are well made mechanically and artistically. The maps and pictures are numerous and well chosen. The scholarship and literary style of the author are of such a sort as to justify his standing and popularity, and the books are "teachable". That is, by the acid test of actual classroom use, they measure up to most of the desires and needs of the pupil and the teacher.

J. W. WAYLAND

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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

When this issue of THE VIRGINIA TEACHER reaches students it will be only a few days before the final examinations for the fall quarter. And perhaps not until they have left for the vacation will they have time to review in their minds the many things that have joined to make December a very busy month.

There was the Romaine concert December 2, American Education Week December 4 to 10, basketball games December 3 and 10, the Barrie plays December 9 and 10, and William Sterling Battis in life portrayals of Dickens characters December 16. Then along came examinations—December 19 and 20. And home!—The winter quarter will begin January 4.

Margaret Romaine is a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company and her recital was such a one as a Harrison-Charming burg audience rarely has the opportunity of hearing. Except for the Jewel Song from "Faust" with which her program began, most of Miss Romaine's numbers were short and light. Her lyrics were most cordially received, and the piquant charm that went into some of them and into most of the encores brought a lively response from her audience.

Miss Romaine was brought here as one of the numbers of the entertainment course provided under the joint auspices of the State Normal School and the New Virginia Theatre.

American Education Week was ushered in December 5 at assembly when Dr. H. A. Converse spoke briefly of his Education—recollections of the country Old and school of his boyhood and New President Duke discussed the growth of education in Virginia in the past fifteen years. Wednesday morning members of the Junior Class presented a stunt in which was portrayed the schoolroom of former times, with its stove, its benches, its water bucket and dipper, and its children who had to be "kept in." Friday morning the Juniors presented in contrast the school of the future, with victrola,