

## THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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Manuscripts offered for publication from those interested in our state educational problems should be addressed to the Editor of *The Virginia Teacher*, State Normal School, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

### EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

The University is the hope of the world, according to President Nicholas Murray Butler, speaking at the inauguration of Chancellor Hadley, at Washington University, St. Louis. "The university takes its place," he said, "by the side of the Church and the State as one of the three fundamental institutions of modern civilization on its moral and spiritual side." In setting forth what he conceived to be "The Mission of the Modern University," he stressed the fact that conflicting religious beliefs and diverse social and political theories find their reconciliation in the modern university, which is typical of that coming day when nations shall be bound together by new ties of understanding and co-operation.

"No community is completely equipped with facilities for public education unless, in addition to adequate schools, it has also a public library accessible to gaining general information," is a recent statement of the Bureau of Education, which finds that its presence is of paramount importance as an adjunct to the educational facilities of the city or village. As an institution in which are fostered Americanism and democratic co-operation, its value should not be overlooked by even the smallest communities.

Hon. Harris Hart, State Superintendent of Education, has been officially notified of

the opening of the Prize Essay Contest of the American Chemical Society in which all students of high and secondary schools in the State of Virginia have been invited to compete. In addition to the general scholarship prizes, six special prizes of \$20 in gold are to be awarded in each state in the Union. A set of five of the most informing and inspiring recent books in science has been sent to every accredited secondary school in the state. It is hoped that this will furnish not only suitable reference material for the essays to be written for the contest, but that they will form the nucleus of a scientific library for the schools receiving them. A pamphlet describing in detail this munificent gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Garvan, of New York, will be received by all accredited schools in the state. In justice to the donors and to the cause which it represents, the conditions of this contest should be presented in every school entitled to enter, and students should be urged to become participants.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Teacher-Training Institutions was held at George Peabody College for Teachers November 8-10. Dean K. J. Hoke, of William and Mary College, and W. T. Sanger, Secretary of the State Board of Education, were the Virginia representatives on the program. Many of the important problems facing Teachers' Colleges were ably presented and discussed by some of the South's leading educators.

### RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WEST LAW

*Presented before the student body of the State Normal School at Harrisonburg, Summer Session, 1923, with the request that every teacher approving them take some steps in her community to get them definitely acted upon.*

Realizing the existing conditions in school buildings and school equipment in the state of Virginia as we study the rules and regulations for modern school facilities, we, the un-

dersigned teachers of Virginia, most urgently express the desire for legal regulations requiring school superintendents and trustees when constructing new buildings to have them meet approved standards in fire protection, heating, lighting, toilet facilities, ventilation, and water supply.

We find that the state of Ohio is, or was only recently, the only state in the Union meeting complete standard regulations. Virginia in recent surveys is shown to have in many schools a moderate degree of necessity provisions, but we desire for every school in the Commonwealth the most approved equipment for the conservation of life and health, and for the most efficient work.

We are now required, under the West Law, to prepare ourselves to do certain things for the health and welfare of our pupils that we cannot possibly do in many of our schools because of poor equipment or no equipment. We are required to pass examinations by 1925 to prove our ability to put into effect the requirements of the said law; and we earnestly recommend that plans be laid at once that will make our effective compliance with these requirements possible.

Therefore we recommend that all plans and specifications for new school buildings be subject to approval by the State Board of Education or competent inspectors appointed by the said Board, and that a responsible committee of inspectors be provided in each county and city to see that the requirements are carried out in all new school buildings erected.

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## CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

### CIVIC SCIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Science teaching has become more and more practical. The old ideas of a mere theoretical discussion, because of unmistakable educational values, have gradually given place to the notion that these values are none the less certain when practical applications are made of them. Hence, the titles for a

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CIVIC SCIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, by Hunter and Whitman. American Book Company. New York: 1923. 430 pages.

rapidly increasing number of texts, in pretty much all phases of science, show a recognition of a demand on the part of both public and educators in the use of the terms "Practical," "Applied," "Household," "Everyday," "Common," "Civic," "Community," and so on.

Nowhere has the emphasis upon applicable knowledge been more evident than in General Science. The story of the development of General Science from the old "Natural Philosophy" to the current treatments under the title of "Everyday Science" is not as long a one as may be found in many another subject of educational value. The physics, chemistry, and bacteriology, "with applications," have now become "science" with a nucleus, such as the home, the shop, the farm, or the community. The most recent development in this field is Hunter and Whitman's *Civic Science in the Community*.<sup>1</sup>

Hunter and Whitman's *Civic Science in the Community* replaces for those desiring a single volume the separately published volumes by these authors, the one dealing with science in the home, the other with science in the community. The combined work is the product of much of the best thought in the line of general science.

As a textbook in introductory science it represents a carefully selected group of topics calculated to awaken interest in the minds of boys and girls. The material is gathered under the six major heads, "Advantages Offered by the Community," "Weather and Climatic Conditions," "Water and Its Place in the Life of the Community," "How the Community Cares for Its Citizens," "Transportation and Communication," and "How Life on the Earth Has Improved." At the head of each chapter, presenting the sub-heads under the general topics, is the statement of a series of problems, experiments, and projects, the principles underlying these constituting the subject-matter of the chapter.

Children's interests in science are carefully observed; and the methods of treatment are adapted to children. The volume, in brief, is intended to round out some of the science information previously acquired by the pupil, to add new information regarding his relations to his fellows, and through its point of attack to teach good citizenship, good morals and straight thinking. The work is ad-