

vidual research. The unique feature about the *Syllabus* is the fact that instead of being in outline form, each chapter consists wholly of thought-provoking questions, a method already popularized by the author in his classroom. No more hopeful sign can be found in the art of text-book writing than this and it is to be hoped and expected that the texts of the future will utilize this method greatly. It is only then that memory work gives way to thought and the student is enabled to build up his own synthetic philosophy of education, instead of accepting that of another.

W. J. GIFFORD

XI

SOME RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

A SCHOOL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by N. W. Stephenson and M. T. Stephenson. Boston: Ginn and Company. 1921. 543 pages. (\$1.00).

This book is intended for use in the upper grammar grades and in the junior high school. It will be used by teachers and pupils with interest and profit, for it is easy to read and full of significant facts. It does not play on grand style to prodigies in the clouds, but deals in simple, everyday terms with the human experiences of real people—our forefathers and others who have given us a heritage and a man's job. The treatment of problems and controverted questions is so judicial and sane that one can not accuse the authors of either provincialism or sectionalism. The maps and pictures are unusually good. They present great variety and relate to incidents and movements of significance in the life of our people. The pictures especially show wide search and discriminating choice. A more attractive and helpful collection would be hard to find. At the end of each chapter are a summary, aids to study for teacher and pupil, and questions for review and further investigation.

J. W. WAYLAND

SENTENCES AND THINKING, by Norman Foerster and J. M. Steadman, Jr. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1919. 122 pages. (\$1.00).

Here is the neatest textbook for Freshman English that the present reviewer has ever had in his hands. It is written straight at the freshman whose attention has previously been directed so completely to technicalities and formalities of language that he has never comprehended that language is primarily for the purpose of clear and exact communication

of thought. He has never conceived of the sentence as the key to clear thinking.

The authors of this little book present a connected and constructive account of the principles of subordination, parallelism, and economy, as they relate to sentence-making; and this they call the core of the book. There is an introductory chapter dealing with punctuation and its relation to thinking; and there is a final chapter dealing with summary sentences. This latter chapter is most useful to students who have many notes to take and need to know how to get the gist of a paragraph or chapter and express it economically.

The book contains also a list of common errors which makes frequent reference to the preceding portions of the text, and which is arranged for easy use.

Especially to be commended is the choice of sentences, paragraphs and essays which serve as a basis for the study of sentence-making. These passages are all weighted with ideas; not one of them is an empty vessel.

C. T. LOGAN

MODELS OF SPEECH COMPOSITION, compiled by James Milton O'Neill. New York: The Century Company. 1921. 849 pages. (\$3.50).

There is a wide range of appeal in the ninety-five speeches gathered together in this volume. There are court room speeches, campaign speeches, nominating speeches, after-dinner speeches, eulogies, inaugurals, speeches of introduction, speeches of response, of welcome, of farewell, of presentation, of acceptance, speeches in legislative bodies, sermons, lectures.

The compiler has undertaken to present these speeches in the exact words in which each was delivered, and without any omission. He has used, wherever possible, copies from stenographic reports in preference to edited manuscripts.

Aside from brief biographical notes of the speakers and short statements of the circumstances under which the speeches were delivered, the volume is not annotated. This conforms with Mr. O'Neill's purpose to make of it a "case-book" rather than a textbook.

One of the model speeches of introduction is that delivered by Shailer Mathews when Woodrow Wilson spoke before the Federated Council of Churches at Columbus in 1915. It follows: "Ladies and Gentlemen: The President." A model speech, indeed!

Included among the speeches of farewell is his "Farewell to the Class of 1920," by President Edwin A. Alderman of the University of Virginia.

C. T. LOGAN

FARM BLACKSMITHING, by John F. Friese. Peoria, Ill: The Manual Arts Press. 1921. 92 pages. (\$1.25).

"Learning by doing" is the maxim of many teachers of today. Doubtless in the past many teachers have worked books overtime, but it is equally true that many teachers of manual

arts have neglected to avail themselves of written instructions for explaining and organizing their work. This book by Friese is written after the manner of a laboratory manual. Its language is plain and clear, and its illustrations are numerous and well chosen. This book ought to be used in every Smith-Hughes high school, and every farmer that wants to save money on repair bills ought to have it.

G. W. CHAPPELEAR, JR.

CHARLES LAMB—PROSE AND POETRY, edited by George Gordon. Oxford: Carendon Press. 1921. 216 pages. (\$1.60).

This little volume, with its flavor of ripe culture and old-time quiet thought, would surely have pleased Charles Lamb himself. It is hard to lay the book down, even after dipping again and again into his choice essays and letters, arranged in biographical order, and after turning often to look at the quaint sweet portrait of the brother and sister which serves as frontispiece.

Besides the introduction by Mr. Gordon and the well known essays on Lamb by Hazlitt and De Quincey, there are rich and full notes by Mr. A. M. D. Hughes. These give just what one wants most in reading *Elia*—the facts of Lamb's life out of which grew these tender musings or those whimsical side remarks. For, whatever we read from him, it is always his gentle, loving life that we are feeding upon—that life so full of deepest sacrifice and so free from all posing.

ELIZABETH P. CLEVELAND

XII

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Following a record-breaking enrolment of 646 students for the first term of the 1921 summer session, the second term enrolment turned out to be more than double that of any previous year. For the second term there were enrolled 336 students, making a total for the summer session of 982 registrations by 891 different students.

The interim between the closing of the second summer session and the beginning of the fall quarter is of short duration, lasting only from September 2 to September 21. Indications are that the demand for admission at Harrisonburg this fall will go in like proportions beyond all previous figures.

There seems to be little doubt that the erection of a new dormitory at Harrisonburg will be necessary if the school is to meet the

demands being made on it by the young women of the state.

Good progress is being made in the erection of the Alumnae-Students Building just across the campus from Jackson Hall (First Dormitory). The stonemasons have now been joined by carpenters, who are busy laying beams for the first floor. Soon the masons will be up to the second floor. It is hoped that the Alumnae Building will be under roof by January first.

Other improvements being made during the summer include the construction of a railway switch which will make it possible for coal to be delivered to the central heating plant directly from the car. This change involves a difficult cut and a big fill.

The "Smythe house," which the school has rented for a number of years and which was recently purchased by the state, is also undergoing much-needed improvements. The very large white pillars have been removed, a new porch has been built, and some rearrangement has been made in the interior of the house. This building will be used as a dormitory the coming year to help care for the increased attendance.

The new laundry plant is now in operation in the basement of the service building, and the future of the old laundry back of Cleveland Cottage is still an uncertain matter. During the first term of the summer session, under the direction of Miss Julia Woolridge, classes in manual arts redecorated the interior of the building, and the evening of the exhibit no one who entered would have recognized it as the old laundry.

In addition to the exhibit of work done by Miss Woolridge's classes in design, decorating, manual arts, etc., there were exhibits the same evening of work done by Mr. Smith's classes in nature study and Mr. Hopkins' classes in woodworking. These exhibits are always an interesting feature of the summer session and always fully repay those who attend.

The first baseball team ever engaged in