

each book. Essays must not exceed 5,000 words (a length of 3,000 words is suggested as desirable), and must be written, preferably in typewriting, on one side only of paper $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches with a margin of at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Manuscripts not easily legible will not be considered.

The name of the writer must not appear on the essay, which should be accompanied by a letter giving the writer's name, school, and home address, and sent to Dr. Fannie Fern Andrews, 405 Marlborough Street, Boston 17, Mass., not later than June 1, 1927. Essays should be mailed flat (not rolled).

Each country participating in the contest, other than the United States, shall submit the three best essays in each set (normal and secondary) these essays to be selected by judges appointed in each country. The United States judges will select, from these and from the essays written by pupils of the United States, those which in their opinion should receive the prizes. Students may write in their own language. The three best essays selected by the national judges must be translated into English when submitted to the United States judges.

Information concerning literature on the essay subjects may be obtained from the Secretary of the League.

Many teachers in the United States make the writing of the essays a part of the regular school work, and send to the League the best essay in the school. Not more than three essays should be sent from each school.

SUCCESSFUL CONTESTANTS IN THE CONTEST FOR 1925-26

Normal School and Teachers College Section

First Prize—Miss Dorothy Hibarger, State Normal University, Normal, Ill.

Second Prize—Miss Annie McMillan, Furzedown Training College, London, England.

Third Prize—Miss Lena Scranton, State Normal University, Normal, Ill.

Secondary School Section

First Prize—Miss Beulah Millet, Mesa Union High School, Mesa, Ariz.

Second Prize—F. C. Lewis, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol, England.

Third Prize—Miss Virginia Stanley, Holy Cross Academy, Lynchburg, Va.

BOOKS

ATHLETICS IN THE GRADES

PLAY ACTIVITIES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. Grades one to eight. Compiled by Dorothy La Salle. New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1926. Pp. 179. \$2.00.

This book by the Assistant Director of Health Education in the Detroit Public Schools gives a well organized and definite course of study for athletics in the first eight grades.

The volume is divided into three parts, of which the first sets up standards for

judging the values and results of athletics in each grade.

The second part gives a classified list of games with descriptions of each. "These descriptions are so organized that one can see at a glance how many children may play the game, how much space is needed, and what equipment is necessary." One of the best features about this book is that all classifications of the games have been graded in order of their difficulty.

Part three gives full descriptions of various types of competitive athletics for junior high schools. The Pentathlon Point System and the Decathlon Records are clearly outlined. Other ways of conducting field meets and of keeping up a live interest in athletics are also described.

Any teacher in the elementary grades from the lowest through the junior high would find this manual a most valuable possession. It would also prove to be of much worth to health supervisors and playground directors.

VIRGINIA BUCHANAN

HEALTH

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR TEACHING HEALTHFUL LIVING IN THE LOWER ELEMENTARY GRADES. By Donald Easton. Boston: Richard G. Badger. The Gorman Press 1926. Pp. 130.

This book makes a brave attempt to show that the teaching of health in the primary grades is not only desirable but also a practical necessity by connecting up health habits with child activity and child interests.

Unfortunately, such sentences as "Can anyone tell a story of their own about the food they have had sometime when their mother went away" (p. 56), put the reader in such an unhealthy state of mind that real appreciation of the good qualities of the book is difficult.

The weak questions used in developing certain topics and the too teacher-directed activities make it advisable for one not to adopt it as an absolute guide if one wishes to do real teaching, but rather as a means of securing good suggestions that careful thinking may properly develop.

The lists of additional sources of books adds to the usefulness of the book; the part devoted to stories offers attractive material; the illustration made by children who have been interested in healthful living are a positive proof that the teaching of health in the elementary grades secures results.

BERTHA McCULLOM

A MANUAL OF NORMAL PHYSICAL SIGNS. By Wyndham B. Blanton. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1926. Pp. 215, \$2.50.

This manual is a well-planned concise guide for beginners in Physical Diagnosis and is intended to make this subject less of a puzzle to them. It stresses the points important in diagnosis, the chapters on inspection, percussion and auscultation being especially full.

RACHAEL F. WEEMS.

BETTER ENGLISH FOR SPEAKING AND WRITING. By Sarah E. Simons, Clem Irwin Orr, and Mary Ella Given. Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company. 1920. Book One, pp. 330; Book Two, pp. 383; Book Three, pp. 434.

The materials used in this series are fresh and stimulating, the poems being exceptionally well chosen. Some of the jobs suggested will also tend to stimulate the child, particularly those pertaining to story telling. The systematic graded exercises for voice training are an experiment, but they are at least worth a trial in this land of too-slovenly speech habits. The matter of good usage is well cared for through the three books. So far, so good! But the grammar is almost altogether a matter of *knowledge*, the self-checking scheme is inadequate, and there is no evidence of acquaintance with the newer trends in composition teaching.

GOOD ENGLISH IN SPEAKING AND WRITING. By Nell J. Young and Frederick W. Memmott. New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1926. Seventh Grade Book, pp. 372. Eighth Grade Book, pp. 376.

In common with the earlier books of this series these texts are themselves examples of "Good English in Writing." Moreover, they provide for a gradual development of the ability to write; there is a reason for

writing, there is ample oral preparation, and there is definite technical training. The books are unusual in their provision for word mastery; it seems that their use would secure not only literacy but even a certain nicety of expression. There is plenty of grammar—an extra offering in the appendix of each book for the zealous—but it is almost all taught functionally, to give reasons for usage, or to improve style. These texts tempt one to take a year off and teach English to upper grade children!

OUR ENGLISH. By Joseph Villiers Denny, Eleanor L. Skinner, and Ada M. Skinner. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1926. Book One, pp. 298; Book Two, pp. 310; Book Three, pp. 437.

These texts with their open page and good print represent the last word in the mechanics of book making. They are addressed directly to the child and in language he can understand. For that reason and because of the absence of "preachiness," the material of a civic-moral nature is an addition to the series.

The self-checking scheme is introduced early and is well worked out. Good usage is possibly overemphasized, but some of the games will generate real interest. There is a great deal of grammar, and it is none too closely tied up with composition. The composition work as a whole varies in quality; it lacks definiteness, especially in the earlier years, but the paragraph idea is well done. The use of a series of related pictures in developing paragraph sense is particularly clever.

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

PALGRAVE'S GOLDEN TREASURY. Edited by A. B. DeMille. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1926. Pp. 629. \$1.00.

A new edition of Palgrave with copious notes, questions, and biographies. It includes attractive illustrations and a list of musical settings.

KIDNAPPED. By Robert Louis Stevenson. Edited by A. B. DeMille. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1925. Pp. 327. 80 cents.

A new school edition edited expressly for students and teachers. Special features that commend the work are notes on the historical back-

ground, suggestive questions, brief, but adequate explanatory notes, and attractive illustrations. Just the make-up in a book that one enjoys.

A MANUAL OF ENGLISH. By George B. Woods and Clarence Stratton. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Company. 1926. Pp. 292. \$1.00.

This is a valuable little reference book that is chock-full of information on the mechanics of writing and on the larger forms of composition as well. Distinctive features of the volume are comprehensiveness of subject matter, clearness of presentation, and alphabetical arrangement of contents. A convenient and trustworthy guide that every teacher of English composition should possess.

C. H. H.

ESSENTIALS OF COMMERCIAL LAW. By Wallace Hugh Whigham. New York: The Gregg Publishing Company. 1925. Pp. 258.

Not to make lawyers of students, but rather to build up a regard for the observance of the rights and wrongs in the relationship of man to man is the purpose of this standard textbook.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS ALUMNÆ

The closing game of the College hockey season was played Saturday, November 13, when the local team got the big end of a 3-1 score from Fredericksburg. The sport has continued in popularity on the campus, with frequent contests between various gym class. Basketball practice is in high swing now, and a satisfactory schedule is made.

Some teachers are honored in their own country: Miss Fannie Speck, teacher in the Harrisonburg schools, was given a dinner by the Business Women's Club of the city in celebration of her fifty-year mark of teaching. Miss Spilman was master of ceremonies; both Mr. Logan, once a pupil of Miss Speck's and his little daughter, Jane, now a pupil, were on the program.

Gertrude Drinker, of Richmond, and a member of the college freshman class, was the winner in the 4-H Club contest held in Virginia the past year. Her reward was a trip to the Club Congress held in Chicago; she brought back glowing reports of the "smoke-stack" city.

Pi Kappa Omega has admitted Helen Goodson, of Norfolk, to membership. The remark heard throughout college was "Fine!"

Thanksgiving day was a holiday for everybody. Any number of girls visited home folks or friends. The festive day was ushered in by the Athletic Association, Wednesday night, when the little gym was made the scene of a tea dance. Thanksgiving dinner in the dining room was all it should be, with turkey, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and what not.

The faculty wanted to appear energetic and a large representation attended the Virginia Educational Conference held in Roanoke Wednesday, November 24, to Saturday, November 27.

Those who attended the conference (and the V. M. I.-V. P. I. football game) were President Duke, Dr. Wayland, Dr. Gifford, Mr. Logan, Mr. Varner, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Garber, Miss Anthony, Miss Shaefer, Miss Whittlinger, Miss Wilson, Miss Spilman, Miss Cornell, Miss Lewis, and Miss Ralston. A large number of old college girls were present at the Harrisonburg Alumnæ Luncheon. Mr. Duke told them the news and plans of the school.

Many students were at the football game only: there were those who wept for the V. M. I. losers and those who rejoiced with the V. P. I. winners. There was just such a division of sentiment over the U. Va. trouncing of North Carolina with a 3-0 score in Charlottesville the same day.

The annual Red Cross campaign was run in the college as usual with the same enthusiasm. Mr. H. P. Morehead's talk in chapel served as a stimulus for the cause. Rev. Dr. J. J. Rives, pastor of the Methodist Church, spoke in assembly during National Education Week, November 13-20. Everybody wanted to ship for Europe immediately when Miss Harnsberger told of her adventures there last summer.

The Stratford Dramatic Club presented the first play of its season in Walter Reed Hall, Friday night, December 3. An "all-star cast" put *Luck* on in a manner that made Fortune smile. Movies are still being given for the benefit of the swimming pool.