

such as lecture courses, the theatre, radio, and the moving picture, municipal reference service to the city government, the story hour, and the improvement of public service by attention to staff welfare. All these things, which are stones used to build up that fabric of accessibility which is the characteristic of the present American public library, are founded on or closely connected with the ability of the individual reader to select his book and to take it where it will be most convenient for him to use it.

We are frequently reminded that it will not do for us to assume that more than a very small proportion of reading is done through the agency of a public library. This, of course, is true. The fact that our institution constitutes an important agency for the distribution of ideas should not blind us to the existence of many other agencies which are also doing satisfactory work. The existence of these agencies is a good reason for co-operation among them all, but it is no reason why any of them should give up its efforts or should weary in the labor of trying to improve and extend its influence.—ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK, in *The Library Journal*.

Buffalo, N. Y., is in the midst of a great school-building campaign. Twelve new buildings are under construction, including a \$2,000,000 high school; and plans are in preparation for two other buildings. This has become necessary because of failure for years to provide accommodations to meet the needs of this rapidly growing city.

Co-education has been reestablished in the high schools of Paterson, N. J. In 1923 the segregation plan was adopted, but after a trial of two years the board of education decided to return to co-education. The superintendent of schools is of the opinion that since men and women live together they should grow up together.

ENGLISH NOTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

THE English Teachers Section of the Virginia State Teachers Association convened at 9 o'clock, November 25, 1925, in the Art Building, Norfolk, Va., with President H. A. Miller presiding.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Secretary, Anna S. Johnston; her report as Treasurer showed a balance of \$32.58.

Mr. H. A. Miller then gave a résumé of his two years' administration, showing that the following objectives had been accomplished:

(a) A list of the English teachers of Virginia was compiled and published in *THE VIRGINIA TEACHER*.

(b) A section of *THE VIRGINIA TEACHER* was devoted to the publication of articles interesting to teachers of English during the months of January-June, 1925.

(c) Several districts (A, B, D, I, and K) have organized English Associations auxiliary to the State Association. Activities of District A were reported by Miss Lula Daniel of the Fredericksburg State Teachers College; of District B, organized as "The Tidewater Association of Teachers of English," by Anna S. Johnston; and of District D, by Mrs. L. G. Diehl. All these reports showed active interest by the local associations and really valuable results of the meetings held in these districts.

(d) An attempt was made to get a speaker of note to address the English teachers at the annual meeting, but this attempt failed.

Suggested aims for the future were:

(a) We should try to complete the organization of the districts and if possible organize the counties separately.

(b) *THE VIRGINIA TEACHER* was chosen

as the organ of publication of the Association for the year of 1926.

(c) We should try to devise means of raising more funds; we need an organ of publication; we need money to pay the traveling expenses of officers; we need money to bring notable speakers to the annual meetings.

(d) Mr. C. T. Logan should be reimbursed for the publication of lists of English teachers. Then a free list may be secured by any English teacher upon application to Mr. Logan. A motion was made and carried that the new treasurer send the cost of the publication of the roster of English teachers to Mr. Logan.

(e) We should try to safeguard the preparation of students for college entrance, so that our weak students and those who do not graduate, if induced to enter college for participation in athletics, may not be regarded as typical products of our high schools.

(f) Colleges, teachers colleges, and high schools should get together on curriculum to prevent over-lapping courses.

(g) The English Association should work on some problem each year, such as, for instance, "The Library in a Small Town."

Mr. C. T. Logan was not present, but his report of the publications devoted to English appearing in *THE VIRGINIA TEACHER* from January to June, 1925, was presented and is enclosed herein.

A letter from Mr. J. L. McMannaway asking that each department of the Virginia State Teachers Association hold a summer meeting at one of the state institutions was read, but no action was taken on it.

A nominating committee was appointed which at the afternoon session brought in the following nominations; for president, C. T. Logan, of the State Teachers College, Harrisonburg; for vice-president, Dr. A. A. Kern, of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg; secretary-treasurer, J. R.

L. Johnson, of the State Teachers College, Radford. These nominees were duly elected.

The Executive Committee to be appointed will consist of high school teachers.

A fifty-cent fee for the year beginning November, 1925, was collected from each of the following persons by the retiring secretary:

Mr. H. A. Miller, Petersburg
Mrs. L. G. Diehl, Dinwiddie Co.
Miss Hilda Devilbiss, Portsmouth
Miss L. C. Daniel, Fredericksburg
Miss Lucy Brickhouse, Norfolk
Miss M. C. Stahr, Norfolk
Mr. J. R. L. Johnson, Radford
Miss Virginia Old, Norfolk
Miss Garland Stranghan, Hampton
Miss Virginia Amos, Hampton
Miss Louise Berryman, Norfolk
Miss Amy Vandegrift, Norfolk (Blair)
Miss S. B. Graham, Norfolk (Blair)
Miss Velma Biedler, Burke's Garden
Miss Margaret Sayre, Newport News
Mrs. Paul F. Darden, Portsmouth
Mr. T. G. Pullen, Newport News
Mrs. Nellie P. Smith
Mr. A. Kyle Davis, University of Virginia
Mr. Asa D. Watkins, Hampden-Sidney College
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Peck, Norfolk
Miss Anna S. Johnson, Portsmouth

The afternoon session was very enjoyable both from a literary and a social point of view, the papers and addresses being especially fine; and upon adjournment the Tidewater Association served tea and cake.

Dr. A. D. Watkins, of Hampden-Sidney College, made a witty and forcible plea for more good old-fashioned grammar. He characterized the noun as "Ma," the verb as "Pa," the pronoun as working for "Ma," the adverb as hanging around "Pa," the participle as a gay deceiver dressing up like Mrs. Noun and Mr. Verb.

Mr. A. S. Martensen, of Petersburg, talked interestingly on expression and the interests of children.

Professor Arthur Kyle Davis, of the University of Virginia, read a scholarly paper on Oxford University, England, calling it our "contemporary grandmother" and giving us a most enlightening account of the methods of Oxford and the great differences between Oxford and American universities.

Mr. T. G. Pullen, of the Newport News High School, described the methods used in that school for teaching English VIII.

ANNA S. JOHNSTON,
Secretary-Treasurer.

NATIONAL DRAMA WEEK

The week of February 14 to 20, inclusive, has been designated National Drama Week by the Drama League of America, and will be celebrated throughout the United States. The plan is supported by the American Library Association, various Church Federations, representatives of the Professional Actors' and Managers' Associations, and the National Federation of Women's Clubs.

Eager to quicken the public's interest in the theatre as a social force and as a great educational movement, these various associations are attempting to educate the public to appreciate and demand good drama.

Programs and suggestions for each day of the week may be had free by applying to the office of the Drama League of America, 59 East Van Buren street, Chicago.

Q. E. D.

In the January issue of *American Speech* one finds quoted the following letter to the school authorities:

High School Principle, Dear Teacher, I wish to drop my English II and to take up Zoölogy. My reason for dropping is that I don't kneed no more English.

EDUCATIONAL PUBLICITY

Organized effort as urged by the National Education Association to secure greater publicity for teachers meetings, may well be exerted by the National Council of Teachers of English, which held its annual meeting in Chicago November 26 to 28.

Such, at any rate, is the impression produced by following one Chicago newspaper—and that a relatively superior news organ

—the *Chicago Daily News*. In spite of the fact that the National Council had a three-day program in the Auditorium Hotel with an attendance of four or five hundred people and speakers from thirteen states and England, the following is the only comment on the whole meeting, as found in the *Daily News*. This clipping is from the issue of Saturday, November 28, and is headed "Explains Dictionary Plans."

DR. W. A. CRAIGIE OF OXFORD TO LIST AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS

Dr. W. A. Craigie of Oxford University, who is compiling a new dictionary of the American language at the University of Chicago, explained his project yesterday afternoon at the fifth annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English in the Auditorium hotel. Dr. Craigie pointed out that only through the gathering of a vast amount of American words and phrases from books can his object be achieved. He asked the help of all teachers interested in creating a genuine record of the American language.

English as it is taught in the classroom has very little effect on the everyday conversation of the American people, according to Prof. John H. Clapp of New York university, who recommended far-reaching changes in methods of teaching.

"We should find out what the people of the country are using to express themselves and try to help them talk and write clearly and precisely," he declared. "Instead, we teach an old-style of purist English and our teachings are immediately forgotten."

Zona Gale, novelist, will address the convention today at its closing session.

One should suppose that newspapers would find abundant material worthy of attention in the more than thirty-five speeches made at Council meetings, particularly when the large space devoted to crimes, court trials, and scandals is taken into account

The ant-hills of civilization are always crowded; its beehives are often empty. It is the function of a university to help populate the beehives—NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

The statement (in the Declaration of Independence) that all men are created equal is manifestly not true in every sense. . . . Neither have all men any "unalienable rights" to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—CHARLES W. ELIOT.