

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.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

PRINCE GEORGE SCHOOL NEWS

A mimeographed bulletin, the February number of which includes four solid pages of material, is the enterprising method by which Superintendent R. K. Hoke, of Hopewell, Virginia, keeps before his teachers school news and announcements, as well as helpful suggestions regarding self-supervision and professional readings.

County superintendents interested in building up a truer professional spirit among their teachers and a more efficient administration in their own office will find the *Prince George School News* a stimulating publication.

AN AID TO MODERN RURAL SUPERVISION

Somewhat in line with the Prince George School News is the typewritten bulletin issued monthly by Clara S. McCarty "for the uplift of the pupils, teachers, and friends of the one and two room schools" of Marshall and Scott districts, Fauquier county, Virginia.

Besides a careful and understandable report on the scores made in Monroe's Silent Reading Test which was given to 125 pupils in these rural schools, Mrs. McCarty presents in the January *School Bulletin* a spell-

ing word list from Monroe and a special Christmas list prepared by Miss Hattie S. Hall, principal of the Markham School; suggestive notes on reading clubs, on the importance of silent reading, and on school and community activities.

More and more are superintendents and supervisors making use of bulletins as a means of putting before teachers material which formerly was wont to consume much of the time of teachers' meetings, where it literally went in one ear and out the other. Important notices, suggestions, etc., should be set down on paper, and each teacher should have the opportunity to read for himself.

VIRGINIA'S N. E. A. MEMBERSHIP

There were 932 Virginia teachers enrolled in the National Education Association on January 1, 1922, as against 655 a year prior.

In Illinois there are more teachers belonging to the N. E. A. than in any other state—8,270; in South Carolina are the fewest members of the N. E. A.—59.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

The National Vocational Guidance Association at its last meeting adopted the following statement of principles regarding Vocational Guidance in Relation to Vocational Education:

"Vocational guidance must be provided before, during, and after courses in vocational education if these courses are to be truly effective. Students in vocational courses should be enrolled only after careful selection on the basis of fitness and well-considered choice.

"In order that the aims of vocational guidance may be secured, we recommend to those in charge of vocational education that any plan for vocational education should include such basic studies as the economic and sociological aspects of occupations.

"In accordance with the best practice among those in charge of vocational education and education for citizenship may be continued in factories, shops, and stores for the purpose of up-grading workers and enabling them to understand the problems of work and to make progress toward a better

standard of living and a better organization of vocational life.

"We recommend that adult education, both vocational and general, be provided through a variety of short-unit courses in day and evening schools."

IMPORTANT NEW SYLLABUS IN ELEMENTARY ENGLISH

Not since the publication of *Speaking and Writing English*, the course of study prepared by Superintendent Bernard M. Sheridan, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, in October, 1915, and later reprinted in second and third editions and published in book form by Benj. H. Sanborn, Boston, in 1917, has there appeared a course of study of English in Elementary Schools that equals in merit that just published in pamphlet form by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago.

Interest in this new bulletin is particularly timely in Virginia when a new elementary school course of study is under process of construction. All teachers concerned with the course in English should have this bulletin. It may be obtained for twenty-five cents by writing Mr. A. B. Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Department of Educational Standards and Statistics, Chicago, Ill.

The special contribution of the Chicago syllabus is that the work is arranged in three cycles; thus, grades I, II, and III make a progressive study of the matters of speaking, writing, spelling, silent reading, oral reading, and literature; grades IV, V, and VI go thru a second cycle presenting in more difficult form a consideration of similar aspects of English: speaking, writing, spelling, informational reading, literary reading, general reading; and much the same subject matter, in more difficult form, is again presented as a third cycle in grades VII and VIII.

The arrangement into cycles was done, one reads in the preface, "in order that what is common to several years of a child's life may be seen as a whole. The setting up of aims, ostensibly to be accomplished in a given grade, but really general, is stultifying. The achievements possible at a given stage are here as definitely set up as was possible,

but with due regard to the range of individual differences, and the insufficiency of present knowledge."

The Chicago Course of Study is a book of 147 pages, and contains a very sane and practical introduction of 17 pages, entitled Guiding Principles, which it is recommended should be studied by the teachers of each school under the leadership of the principal. What an ideal way to spend time that now is often wasted in so-called "teacher's meetings," which are in reality *principal's* meetings for the reading of announcements and routine notices that might better be typewritten and handed to teachers!

The course by cycles and grades covers about 80 pages, and the last 50 pages (Part III) include a very good composition scale, not well arranged typographically, but valuable for its comments on each of the standard compositions. An outline of the mechanics of written composition arranged by grades is but 3 pages long, and no more space is devoted to the arrangement of the essentials of grammar according to grades. Other matters included in Part III are a spelling list by grades, a library list by grades, and a good brief bibliography of stories and collections of verse.

C. T. LOGAN

ASTONISHING SALE OF READING SCALE

The Russell Sage Foundation, 130 East 22d Street, New York, has had a remarkable sale of the Burgess Picture Supplement Reading Scales, first published about a year ago. There are four equivalent and interchangeable forms, standardized from grades 3 through 8, and over a million and a half copies of the scale have been sold within the year.

Besides this popular silent reading scale, the Foundation has published and distributed about a quarter of a million copies each of the Ayres Spelling Scale and the Handwriting Scale (Gettysburg edition), both prepared by Leonard P. Ayres.

MOTION PICTURES VOUCHERED FOR

Helpful lists of motion pictures approved by the National Board of Review of Motion

Pictures may be obtained by addressing the Board at 70 Fifth Avenue. The lists are designed especially for educators interested in problems of visual instruction, and are drawn from all American sources of film production and supply. A charge of 25 cents is made for each list.

The National Board of Review now has available carefully prepared lists of motion pictures as follows: 1) Films drawn from books for boys and girls, 2) The best family pictures released in 1921, 3) Films based on standard literature, American poetry, American and French history, 4) Films on North American geography, history, etc., 5) Films based on World geography, and 6) Films bearing on zoology, biology, and botany.

CLEVELAND COURSE OF STUDY. PRINTED IN PAMPHLET FORM

Courses of study in various subjects have recently been published by the Board of Education of Cleveland, Ohio, and offer to interested teachers many valuable suggestions regarding content of courses. Nine of these courses are available in neat pamphlet form, and any of them will be supplied on receipt of a charge which partially covers the cost of publication. The courses of study, with their prices, are listed as follows:

Senior High Course in General Science, 25c.; Senior High Course in Art, 15c.; Junior and Senior High Courses in English, 50c.; Junior High Course in Art, 15c.; Junior High Course in Geography, 20c.; Junior High Course in Home Economics, 15c.; Junior High Course in Hygiene, 20c.; Elementary School Course in Art, 20c.; and Elementary School Manual of Safety, 25c.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY FOR VIRGINIA BEING PREPARED

In an effort to make the most complete and the most comprehensive course of study for elementary schools that can be prepared, the State Department of Education has adopted a democratic organization of committees thru which this work is being carried on. Co-operating with a central committee under the State Department, various sub-committees are actively engaged in pooling

their ideas with regard to the revised course of study, which it is hoped may be put into operation next September.

Of these sub-committees, the one that is closest to the classroom teachers, and that is therefore most likely to reflect the intimate impressions of actual experience, is the committee named by the State Teachers Association.

This committee is under the chairmanship of Superintendent R. K. Hoke, of Hopewell, and includes the following: A. W. Stair, Gate City; Miss Ada Baugh, Broadway; Miss Pamela Ish, Harrisonburg; Miss Blanche Daniel, East Radford; Miss Bessie Rice, Petersburg; and Miss Marie L. James, Belle Haven.

NEW MAPS IN PREPARATION

A movement which will give to History a more vivid and well-proportioned view of the great march of human events is the preparation and editing of a series of maps by Dr. Carl Russell Fish, Professor of American History, University of Wisconsin; Dr. James Alton James, Professor of History, Northwestern University; Dr. Rolla Milton Tryon, Associate Professor of the Teaching of History, University of Chicago; and Dr. Arthur Guy Terry, Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University; and by other members of the Department of History, Northwestern University.

With the efforts and experience of these men from three of the leading Universities, the field of History will be covered in the best manner possible.

Five of the sets in preparation are as follows: Set No. 23, American History; Set No. 24, Ancient and Classical History; Set No. 25, Medieval and Modern History; Set No. 26, Early European History, and Set No. 27, Modern European History.

The maps will be manufactured and published by the McConnell School Map Co.

THE PROJECT METHOD

The project method is based upon sound principles of psychology and education. It is a logical outcome of the acceptance of the doctrine of interest and the principles of motivation—H. B. Wilson and G. M. Wilson.