

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

COLLEGE INTEREST PROVES MEASURE OF RED CROSS ACCOMPLISHMENT

The vitality of almost any program may be measured by the degree with which it is received by the active minds to be found in the colleges and universities of the country. Significance attaches therefore to the growing recognition among these institutions of the intensely practical activities of the American Red Cross, a recognition attested by the fact that these Red Cross activities form the principal link of that organization with the great college bodies of the United States.

The outstanding leadership of the American Red Cross in developing water-rescue, swimming, and first aid, the first two of which are closely akin to athletic accomplishments, has made such instruction generally received in higher educational institutions.

Yale, for instance, is among the pioneers in this field, and every year sends out from 100 to 150 trained men in this work. Dartmouth is closely following Yale in this re-

spect, while at the Naval and Military academies, Annapolis and West Point respectively, such instruction is invaluable. At West Point the Red Cross Life Saving test has been made the basis for the so-called "A" test in swimming, which every senior is required to pass before graduation. Swimming proficiency is of course prerequisite at Annapolis.

In institutions where such instruction is not so essential, swimming is frequently elected as their winter sport by many of the students, and consequently Red Cross instruction finds a welcome place. This interest among the majority of the better known colleges and universities is carried from class rooms into summer activities by means of the Red Cross Life Saving Institutes held annually, the bulk of which attendance comes from such educational bodies. Through attendance at these camps of instruction, a two-fold purpose is accomplished; the graduates are enabled to serve with material benefit to themselves, as counsellors at water-front camps; and by their ability to diffuse their own expert knowledge, other hundreds and thousands are taught to swim and to save life.

Among girls' colleges this Red Cross activity is especially popular, Smith, Wheaton, Bryn Mawr, and Western College for women, being the leaders in interest, though interest is widespread.

In technical colleges of both men and women, other Red Cross instruction courses are offered and have proved valuable.

Such interest among all these institutions emphasizes of course the purely practical side of Red Cross service, and is natural since the bulk of this service is of the most practical, designed to meet the everyday requirements of America.

The less material side of this work, however, is offered through simple membership in Red Cross ranks, and has its reward in early familiarity with the precepts of human service which every man and woman who becomes a leader is called on to exercise.

The Tenth Annual Membership Roll Call of the American Red Cross will be held this year from November 11 to 25, and is an invitation to become identified through membership with all its does. President W. H. P. Faunce, of Brown University, has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the College Roll Call for the Eastern Section of the United States this year.

"WHEN THE TEXTBOOK ENDS"

With the opening of this school year a new magazine has appeared, *Current Literature*, a weekly, four pages in looseleaf form. Boldly facing the fact that the market is glutted with periodicals, it dares to take its place among them, and chooses for its own particular patron, the high school student.

Modern education demands a knowledge of the world around us. Modern methods of the teaching of English urge that students be made acquainted with what contemporary writers are doing. The purpose and aim of *Current Literature* is, therefore, to point the way—to indicate each week some of the outstanding features in the periodicals of the month, *The Forum*, *The Bookman*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper*, *Scribner*, *Century*, *The American*, *The New Republic*, and the rest. It will print, each week, one short story with a sketch of the author's life. It will indicate, with brief comment, the articles which will attract students of high school age—travel, explorations, informal essay or debate, with suggestions for study. In addition it will tell, now and again, spicy or amusing bits of gossip about authors and their books.

From time to time eminent people of the field of literature, Carl Van Doren, Christopher Morley, William Lyon Phelps, Dorothy Canfield, will write a direct message to the high school student, and again, the high school student will be given opportunity to show his skill in short story, essay, or poem.

Current Literature hopes to begin where the textbook ends and to make pleasantly ac-

cessible for the students of today the best of the literature of their own time.

Mabel A. Bessey, of the Bay Ridge High School, New York City, is the editor of this new paper. The publishers are Looseleaf Education Inc., 1123 Broadway, New York City.

MEASURING THE SPEED OF LIGHT

On his return from a summer spent on Mount Wilson, California, in measuring the speed of light, Professor A. A. Michelson, former head of the Department of Physics at the University of Chicago, announced that the famous Michelson-Morley experiment of 1883, upon the negative results of which Einstein based his celebrated theory of relativity, would be repeated on Mount Wilson next December.

Professor Michelson said, also, that he had obtained very satisfactory results this summer, measuring the velocity of light as it traveled, reflected back and forth by means of a set of mirrors, from Mount Wilson to Mount San Antonio, twenty-two miles away. As a result of the experiment, it is expected that a much higher precision in the measurement of the light's velocity will be attained than has ever before been recorded.

Experts are now at work in Pasadena to perfect the interferometer, Professor Michelson's own invention, which he will use when he conducts once more the world-famous experiment which "involves the problem of measuring the speed of the earth and with it the whole solar system through space."

The interferometer devised by Professor Michelson was used by him in several important earlier investigations, notably, the establishment of the meter in terms of light waves, undertaken by Dr. Michelson in France at the request of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures; his measurement of the diameter of the red star, Betelgeuse; and the ether drift experi-

ment of 1924-25 which studied the effect of the rotation of the earth on the velocity of light, confirming on completion certain parts of the Einstein theory.

IS BROWNING THIRD?

In his department, "As I Like It," in the September issue of Scribner's Magazine, William Lyon Phelps raises the question of the relative standing of the poets in English literature. He writes:

Who is the third poet in English literature? Shakespeare is first, Milton is second, but who is third? Shakespeare is first because he defeated every other poet in every other poet's specialty; Milton is second because of his supreme musicianship, but the moment one names a candidate for third place there is sharp and wide dissent. As President of the Faerie Queene Club, I suppose I ought to support Edmund Spenser, who at one time was generally accorded the position; but both Chaucer and Browning have passed him. Landor said that Shakespeare, Chaucer, and Browning were the three outstanding English poets in their knowledge and interpretation of human nature. When Landor made this statement his inclusion of Browning was regarded as a mere complimentary vote, not to be taken seriously; today we know that Landor was right.

SCIENCE MAGAZINES FOR SCHOOLS

The Science News-Letter, science magazine suitable for classroom use, is now being issued weekly by Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science established under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Washington, D. C. With its first printed issue of October 2, it appears in novel form in that each article is automatically indexed and since articles are printed on only one

side of the paper, each item can be easily clipped out for filing or posted on the bulletin board. The latest information of authentic scientific developments is put in compact and comprehensible form. Technical topics are treated in non-technical terms. Besides giving a survey of contemporary achievements, the *News-Letter* brings to light interesting incidents from scientific history and biography of all ages. New books and important articles in periodicals are reviewed. The men and women who are making modern science will be presented in portraits and personal sketches.

SELECTED BOOK-FILMS

Photoplay and book relationship has again been receiving the attention of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, in the preparation of its annual Selected Book-Films list. This list is issued each year in connection with the observance of Motion Picture Book Week, which this season comes upon the dates of November 7-13. The 1926 list is more complete than any of its predecessors, for it contains not only the selected pictures adapted from published sources for the current year through September, but also all book-films still available for circulation which have been reviewed within the past four or five years.

Many good films have been produced which should not be limited to simply ephemeral presentation, and especially is this true of book-films. The books from which they have been adapted remain in use—why not the films also—this was the thought in the mind of the Better Films National Council of the National Board of Review when it issued an accumulative list for 1926 Motion Picture Book Week. This week coincides with the dates of Book Week, sponsored by the National Association of Book Publishers, and American Education Week, approved by the National Education Association, so that it is a time when community groups will be alert for good pictures and good books.

Here is brought together for the convenience of exhibitors, better films committees, libraries, schools, and bookstores a compilation of over four hundred book-films, giving title, book source and author, featured players, reels and distributor. Although compiled for use during Motion Picture Book Week, the list will be valuable for year-around book-film orders. It is available at ten cents from the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

A unique and worthy method of using a golden anniversary gift has been introduced by Professor Julius and Rosa Sachs. The sum of \$20,000 presented to Professor and Mrs. Sachs, on the occasion of their golden wedding, has been established as an Endowment Fund at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Fund is to be used for the purpose of promoting, by a series of prizes, the progress of secondary education in the United States.

For the year 1926-1927 the Sachs Endowment Fund offers a prize of one thousand dollars for the best essay or treatise on "The Aims and Methods of Science Teaching in the Successive Stages of a Secondary School, and the Intellectual Equipment of the Teacher That Will Enable Him to Put These Aims Into Practice." All manuscripts must be in the hands of the Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University, on or before December 1, 1926. The rules governing the competition for the Science prize may be secured from the Secretary of Teachers College, 525 West 120th Street, New York City.

SLOW STARS!

In 1901, when helium was being first observed in the light of stars, it appeared to Director Edwin B. Frost, of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, to be important that the speed of these stars

should be measured, and the task was begun. Its completion is marked with the publication of the results compiled by Director Frost, Storrs B. Barrett, and Otto Struve, in the latest issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*. "This research has brought out the interesting fact," Professor Frost states, "that almost every other one of these stars has a close companion—not a planet, but a companion star, sometimes only slightly fainter than the star we see."

The helium stars, of which almost four hundred have been studied, have been found to move at a rate of four miles a second in many cases, which is only a third of the average speed of the yellow stars. The helium stars, aside from being youthful and slow, are among the hottest of the stellar family and are giants in size.

This twenty-five years' study of helium stars at the Yerkes Observatory is to be followed with the results of an investigation of the speed of about five hundred white stars, which has occupied a period of more than twenty years.

BOOKS

REALLY FOR TEACHERS

PSYCHOLOGY FOR TEACHERS. By Charles E. Benson, James E. Lough, Charles E. Skinner, and Paul V. West. Boston: Ginn and Company. 1926. Pp. 380. \$2.00.

This new psychology lives up to its title. Emphasis is placed on those phases of psychology that explain the learning process. The attempt is made, and it comes as near being successful as in any book examined in some time, to give to the teacher and the prospective teacher what she needs to develop the knowledge, skill, and character of her pupils.

Some of the chapters that stand out are Chapters XV, Attitudes and Learning; XVIII, Expression and Learning; XX, Individual Differences; XXIII, Mental Efficiency, and XXIV, Mental Hygiene.

Suggestive exercises, subject for discussion and term papers, and a list of psy-