

HOW IS YOUR SIGHT ?

According to the statistics of the Eye Sight Conservation Council of America nine out of every ten persons over twenty-one have imperfect sight. At thirty-one the proportion is larger. Above forty it is almost impossible to find a man or woman with perfect sight. It was learned by the examination of several thousand school children in one of our large cities that sixty-six percent of them had defective vision. This condition, in the opinion of the Council, is to a very large extent unnecessary; and the economic loss alone is of tremendous proportions. The Council is conducting a national movement for the conservation of vision in the schools. The Council should have the heartiest support on the part of school officials.

LITERARY EVENING INSTITUTES

To provide for the cultural needs of men and women who desire to enlarge their knowledge, to cultivate their taste, to enrich their leisure, and to widen the scope of their interests, both public and private, the Loudoun County Council maintains "literary evening institutes" in many parts of the city. At these institutes discussions and group work are arranged in many subjects, including the appreciation of art, architecture and music, classical and modern literatures and languages, philosophy and psychology, history, economics, and social problems, science, elocution, and vocal and orchestral music. Classes in physical training are also held. Visits are made to art galleries, museums and other places of architectural and archeological interest.

THIS IS THE HOUR

This and no other is the hour for educational reconstruction. Much of the future has a kind of mechanical inevitableness, but in education, far more than anywhere else, can a few resolute and capable souls mould the spirit and determine the quality of the world to come.

—H. G. WELLS, "*The New Education.*"

Chicago has spent \$30,000,000 for playgrounds and community centers.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

"THE STORY OF A SOUTHERN SCHOOL"

THE STORY OF A SOUTHERN SCHOOL, by Arthur Barksdale Kinsolving. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Co. 1922. Pp. 335.

This book is a graphic pen picture written by one on the inside. The author is one of the "old boys," who develops his theme with intimate and loving touch. He is evidently of those who believe that history is best told through biography; his story centers in the main round the lives of the splendid men who have been headmasters of the school and the pupils who have gone out to take prominent places in the state and throughout the nation. This fact gives the book a touch of personal interest to almost any reader in Virginia, as he is most likely to find intimate sidelights on the developing personality of one or more men whom he knows or knows of. The present reviewer, for instance, was much pleased to read several little sketches of the school life and character of a cousin who he knew had been killed in the Civil War, but of whom he knew almost nothing else. He had gone out from this school to take his place and meet his death in the ranks of the Southern immortals.

The fact that the history of the school traces through this stormy period of the war gives it a peculiar interest to every Southern reader. The recital is gripping and poignant as the author tells how one after another of the boys of that day, the flower of Southern youth, felt the fire of patriotism and heard the call to arms, and slipped quietly away to take their places among men and play the part of men, many to rise to positions of leadership, and many to die the death of heroes on the field of battle.

This school, the Episcopal High School, near Alexandria, Va., opened its doors in 1839, under the leadership of the Rev. Wm. N. Pendleton as Headmaster. Its purpose, in the words of this devoted man was: "To educate youth on the basis of religion. To apply the instructions of the Bible in the work of training the mind, influencing the heart, and regulating the habits; to provide boys during the critical period of middle youth and in-

ipient manhood the safest and best superintendence, the soundest and most healthful moral influences, and the most useful and extensive course of learning practicable. In a word it is to make full trial of Christian education in training youth for duty and for heaven."

That the experiment has been eminently successful one learns by reading the long roster of pupils who have gone out from the school to rise to places of leadership in both Church and State. There were thirty-five boys the first year, and in the second, the number had increased to one hundred and one. From this time the school went on through varying fortunes, though generally forward, until the beginning of the principalship of Lancelot Minor Blackford, M. A., in 1870. Mr. Blackford, later Dr. Blackford, held this post for forty-three years, and unquestionably became one of the great headmasters of the country. The school rose to a position during this period comparable to that of the great boys' schools of England, of which Dr. Blackford was a great admirer, and where he spent much time during his summers.

Under Mr. Archibald Robinson Hoxton, B. A., his successor, son of a former honored master, and himself trained there, the school continues its great tradition, holds its high reputation, and has made large expansion in buildings and physical equipment. Each year it is filled to capacity, having during the session of 1921-22 one hundred and eighty-six boys. Its career is a tribute to the wisdom of its founders in believing that religion and sound learning should go hand in hand—in fact, that religion is a part of sound learning.

The story is told in an attractive way, being filled with "human interest," and will well repay a reading by all who are interested in education at its best.

WALTER WILLIAMS

ALL DRESSED UP

ESSENTIALS OF ALGEBRA, by David Eugene Smith and William David Reeves. Ginn and Company. 1924. Pp 360.

An old subject in a new dress, this work is quite different from others of the same title which usually present the bare essentials of a more extended treatment of formal algebra.

The authors treat the subject from two points of view, viz: the chief uses of algebra

for the man on the street, and the algebra needed for college entrance, and divide the book accordingly.

Part I contains the means and use of formulas and their derivation. The graph is then introduced in its application both to statistics and to reading results from the graph of a formula, both of which are presumed by advertisers as well as technical writers to be understood by the general reader. After this are taken up the simpler forms of the fundamental processes and the solution of such problems as arise frequently in daily life.

The second part takes up in greater detail the fundamental processes and proceeds to the consideration of topics necessary for taking college entrance examination, and to these is added the new tool of numerical trigonometry.

The pupil who completes this is just as well prepared for further study of that part of algebra usually referred to as "quadratics and beyond" as one who has pursued the subject thus far in a text arranged in the usual topical form.

H. A. CONVERSE

A PRIZE REVIEW

Winning a prize of \$500 over more than a thousand competitors, William J. Flynn, a salesman in Brentano's Book Shop, Chicago, will be envied for having written the successful review of "Ashes of Vengeance," H. B. Somerville's novel published by Robert M. McBride & Company.

Especially because of the interest that may attach to the review as a prize winner, it is quoted here:

It seems to be a prevailing fashion among reviewers to compare all historical romances with those of the august and popular M. Dumas. In the case of H. B. Somerville's "Ashes of Vengeance" we must refrain from following this pleasant custom for at least two reasons. Firstly, because comparisons are well—you know what they are. Secondly, because it is quite good enough to stand on its own merits.

When the irritations of this restless work-a-day world become wellnigh insuperable we like to take home one of these full blooded tales of that satisfactory period when gentlemen settled their differences quite definitely

with the aid of several inches of Toledo or Damascus steel. "Ashes of Vengeance" is a peculiarly pleasing specimen of its kind and we entertain no animosity against the author for so completely capturing our attention that we read on and on until the furnace went out and the milkman banged our morning quota on the front porch. To paraphrase a popular cigarette advertisement, "it satisfies."

It began, as so many things do, with a smile. Quite natural that Mdlle. D'Vanceoire, young, beautiful and but lately come to the court, should smile at the handsome Comte de la Roche. Still more natural that such a gallant gentleman should return the favor in kind. M. Rupert de Vrieac, however, being affianced to the lady in question and having a small heart for these gallantries, found in such conduct ample excuse for a quarrel with M. Le Comte. Wherefore, it followed that quite shortly the Comte de la Roche tasted the supreme humiliation of being allowed to live only through the favor of one who damnably enough was not only a better swordsman, but a Huguenot into the bargain. Comes the night of St. Bartholomew, however, when it is the very great pleasure of the Comte de la Roche to save M. de Vrieac and his lady from unpleasantly expeditious martyrdom, and to grant Mdlle. safe conduct at a price—to be paid by de Vrieac. As to the nature of the price and its payment we must preserve a discreet silence—it's far too good a story for us to spoil. Sufficeth, that against the setting of sixteenth century France the author has written a glowing and gorgeous tale of lovely women and handsome, though hot tempered, knights. We commend it most heartily to all who seek to forget the present state of the stock market and the high cost of hard coal.

LAUNDERING: HOME—INSTITUTION, by Lydia Ray Balderston, (Lippincott's Home Manuals), Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1923. Pp. 389. \$2.50.

This book, with its wonderful scope and accurate information, appeals to the homemaker, the teacher, and the institutional manager. From it one may solve the most difficult problems, knowing that the data contained herein is authentic. Miss Balderston is recognized as an authority on all phases of this subject; and this book is the result of several

years of practical experience as a teacher.

While her other book called "Laundering" is very complete, and of great help to teachers, it does not have the scope of this present book. The primary object of the present volume is "to give help concerning the proper methods of performing the actual processes involved in cleaning a garment," but when one looks over the index he realizes the bigness of the subject and the many phases that necessarily bear upon it. This book is valuable as a text or as a reference volume.

M. L. WILSON

ECONOMICS OF THE FAMILY, by C. W. Taber and Ruth A. Wardall. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1923. Pp. 224. \$2.00.

This subject is new and often is poorly presented in the classroom because it is taught in an abstract way. But the material here offered—projects, questions, investigations—are designed to arouse the interest and develop the initiative of the student.

The topics considered are business methods for the student and individual, business and business methods for the household, principles and practice of household accounting, budgets.

To home economics teachers of personal and household accounting this book is most valuable. It is best adapted for use as a text book in high schools and as a guide in various phases of home economics.

The National Education Association has developed in American education a unity of spirit peculiar to this country alone. Its many-sidedness helps offset the dangers of specialization. Sustained cooperation between all branches of the profession gives a harmony of spirit that has yielded remarkable results. If all teachers would ally themselves with the National organization and work for the common interest of the youth of America, they will not only promote their own interests but that which is far greater, the interests of education. Every teacher, principal and superintendent should be a member of the National Education Association. Have you sent in your name? Headquarters: 1201 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D. C.