

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 Teachers College, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

VIRGINIA HISTORY TEACHERS

Last Thanksgiving at Richmond the History Teachers Section of the Virginia Education Association had an interesting program, and plans are going forward for a good meeting this fall. The officers of the organization, elected last November, are the following:

President, Dr. J. E. Walmsley, State Teachers College, Farmville.

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LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

Interest is growing in the history of Latin America. For a number of years past courses in this subject have been given

in the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg with encouraging results. Students find the subject much richer than they expect, and many of the facts ascertained are not only surprising but helpfully enlightening. The study leads into a series of international topics that are important. For example, the Monroe Doctrine gains a new meaning when seen from the period following the Latin American revolutions of the early decades of last century. What is usually termed American history is decorated with a few question marks when we stop at the Rio Grande, and the average student is surprised to find that a large part of the United States is still more Latin America than Anglo-America.

For a long time there were no textbooks suitable for college classes studying this subject, but now several excellent ones are available. For a brief course, Webster's History of Latin America, published by D. C. Heath and Company, is excellent. A larger book of high merit is W. W. Sweet's History of Latin America, published by the Abingdon Press. Graham H. Stuart's Latin America and the United States, published by the Century Company, is a scholarly study of various international questions. Bryce's Impressions of South America, Bingham's Across South America, and Boyce's Illustrated South America are entertaining and instructive, valuable to the student and general reader alike.

PI GAMMA MU

Pi Gamma Mu is the national social science honor society, with chapters in many of the leading colleges and universities, and with a long roll of distinguished members. Teachers, alumni, and seniors who have attained high rank in scholarship and who have in addition distinguished themselves in social studies, such as sociology, economics, political science, history, law, philosophy, psychology, biology, ethics, or religion are

eligible for membership. No candidate shall be elected who has not had at least twenty semester hours in social science. Honorary members, or members at large, are occasionally elected by the national council in communities where no local organization exists.

The national president of Pi Gamma Mu is Leroy Allen, dean of Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, and the national treasurer is William A. Hamilton, dean of the school of economics and business administration in the College of William and Mary. The fee for life membership is five dollars, and no other payment will ever be required by the national organization. Each chapter can regulate its own finances as it sees best.

The national executive committee has approved the establishment of a chapter of Pi Gamma Mu in the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg. It is likely that the matter will be presented to the faculty of the institution for consideration in the near future.

BOOKS ON MAURY

Thus far only three biographies of Matthew Fontaine Maury, the greatest American scientist, have been published—one forty years ago, the other two within the past two years. In 1888 a life of Maury was issued from a press in London, the author being Maury's second daughter, Mrs. S. W. Corbin. In 1927 appeared, from the United States Naval Institute at Annapolis, Professor Charles Lee Lewis's scholarly book, "Matthew Fontaine Maury, the Pathfinder of the Seas," a handsome octavo volume of 264 pages, illustrated with a number of attractive and some rare pictures and maps. In 1928 Jaquelin Ambler Caskie had her book, "Life and Letters of Matthew Fontaine Maury," published in Richmond, from the Richmond Press, Inc.

There are other indications that the unparalleled work done by Maury is coming again into clearer recognition and fuller appreciation, and it is known that other books on his life and public services are in preparation. It is probable that a book suitable for the use of boys and girls in the schools will be provided in the near future.

STATE HISTORY

It is probable that every state in our federal union has an active historical society, and it is a source of pride to us that the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, published quarterly by the Virginia Historical Society, is one of the best in the country.

The Kansas State Historical Society is one of the largest and most active in the United States. The large volumes of "Collections," which it issues every two or three years, under the able editorship of William Elsey Connelley, secretary, are valuable contributions to the history of the West—not merely to the great state of Kansas.

The Michigan Historical Commission, a state department of history and archives, organized May 28, 1913, publishes an interesting and instructive quarterly, the Michigan History Magazine. The autumn number of this year is a teachers' number, and is devoted to Michigan history and the teaching of Michigan history. It contains helpful articles by Claude S. Larzelere, L. A. Chase, R. M. Tryon, and other well known writers.

The annual dues for membership in the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, headquarters at Lansing, are remarkably low—only \$1 a year; and the Michigan History Magazine is distributed free to members. The copy of the magazine before us contains 150 pages.