

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

EDUCATIONAL SURVEY PROCEEDING STEADILY

The nation-wide survey of secondary education, for which Congress authorized an appropriation of \$225,000 and appropriated the first instalment of \$50,000 for the fiscal year 1930, is proceeding under the direction of the Commissioner of Education. Dr. L. V. Koos, of the University of Chicago, was appointed some weeks ago as an expert assistant to give his full time and attention to the work shortly after the first of the year. The consulting committee appointed last October has met, organized and defined the field of work.

The Secretary of the Interior has now selected a group of advisers consisting of some thirty educators to assist the survey staff in combing the nation for information. In the near future, a second group, consisting entirely of laymen, will be chosen. To this group will be presented the work of the survey commission as it proceeds, and they will criticize it from the point of view of the average citizen. Both educators and laymen will review the final reports.

The personnel of the advisory group represents all sections in the United States, as well as a large variety of educational interests. In it are specialists in state-school administration, city-school administration, state-university administration, relations of colleges and secondary schools, relations of elementary and secondary schools, Negro education, the junior high school, the senior high school, the junior college, the large city high school, the small high school, high-school libraries, the curriculum, extra-curriculum activities, school counseling and guidance, and vocational education.

VIRGINIA EDUCATIONAL SURVEY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARY FACILITIES

The school library activities of the state department of education of Virginia and the library extension department of the state library should be merged and lodged in the state department of education and the establishment of county libraries should be encouraged by state grants for the purchase of books for such libraries. These recommendations affecting the extension and improvement of library service for rural schools are made by the Educational Commission of Virginia in its report of a survey of the public educational system.

At the present time the school library activities of the state department of education are performed by an official whose chief duties are those of a purchasing agent for textbooks and school libraries. The library extension division of the state library supplies schools with traveling libraries and gives advice to communities concerning the establishment of county and other public libraries. Merging the activities of the two agencies in the department of education would bring about a more effective correlation of the work and serve to emphasize the close relationship of the public library to education.

The General Assembly of Virginia passed a county library law in 1924 and one county library has been established. As a stimulus to more rapid development of county libraries the Commission recommended that beginning with the biennium 1928-30 the sum of \$50,000 be apportioned from the educational fund to be expended under the direction of the board of education for the purchase of libraries in the rural districts if and when such libraries are established and their maintenance assured by the several counties.

SORBONNE COURSES

The 1930 French Summer Courses at the Sorbonne have now authorized the admission of American teachers whose school duties in June prevent their arriving in Paris for the opening of the Courses on June twenty-ninth. Such teachers will receive every possible assistance. Their credits, which are evaluated for transfer to other universities and colleges, will be in no way affected; they will be eligible for the final examination leading to the diploma. This favorable decision applies to persons registering for either graduate or undergraduate work. Full details may be had by addressing inquiries to M. L. Boss, 717 South Beech Street, Syracuse, New York.

THE READING TABLE

TRAINING SECONDARY-SCHOOL TEACHERS: A Manual of Observation and Participation. By Alonzo F. Myers and Floyd E. Harshman. New York: American Book Co. 1929. Pp. 245. \$1.50.

This manual should undoubtedly give superior results as a guide in observation and participation for preparation towards high school teaching. Provision is made for a study and an evaluation of all the bigger problems which the high school teacher will meet, from the problem of getting acquainted with the school itself—furnishings, equipment, lighting, ventilation, etc.—to those of management, types of teaching, directed study, and the like.

The organization is excellent—of the unit type—and the manual itself of a size that is easily handled and that will accommodate extra sheets if needed. The references listed are largely of recent date and give the newest as well as the best in secondary practice. It commends itself

to the instructor who would put something tangible into the hands of the students. B. J. L.

THE TEACHING UNIT—A TYPE STUDY. By Douglas Waples and Charles A. Stone. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1929. Pp. 205. \$2.00.

This is a welcome contribution to the unit plan, of which type of text there are, as yet, too few. It restricts itself to the methods of learning and teaching a specific unit in junior high school mathematics. These methods are based upon scientific investigations, and the procedure here developed may be applied to other subject matter as well. One item of outstanding value presented is the analysis and interpretation of pupil difficulties in securing mastery of the unit, which should prove enlightening to that teacher who has been unable to find a solution for this particular problem. This study is followed by the development of techniques to care for such situations; these should be equally valuable. It is a book that will be eagerly received by the development of techniques to care for such situations; these should be equally valuable. It is a book that will be eagerly received by those who are interested in the unit plan of organization. B. J. L.

THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER. By A. Laura McGregor. Garden City, New York: Doubleday Doran and Co. 1929. Pp. 284. \$2.00.

Miss McGregor speaks from first-hand knowledge and her book, therefore, is a valuable addition to the literature in this field—this newest of our public school movements. Because of its significance in American education, prospective teachers should become acquainted with both the underlying and guiding principles of junior high-school teaching. From no other source can they derive better understanding than from the worker in the field. Miss McGregor carries her reader from the desirable school setting, through the duties of the teacher both in the school and the community, to the compensation found in the work; and, in so doing, lays down those principles necessary to the orientation of the teacher, as well as the pupil, relative to this movement.

B. J. L.

STORIES OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. By Elizabeth Blaine Jenkins, with the co-operation of Dr. C. E. A. Winslow. New York: Charles E. Merrill Co. 1929. Pp. 163.

A book of ten charming little stories, delightfully told and illustrated, each with a basic principle of health, whose lesson will be doubly learned because of the element of adventure which it accompanies. It is of third-grade level in vocabulary and should afford keenest enjoyment as well as valuable instruction. B. J. L.

THE WAYSIDE INN FOR BIRDS. By John Lawrence Martin. New York: D. C. Heath and Co. 1929. Pp. 196. 88 cents.

What boy or girl who loves the things of nature would not be interested in this delightful supplementary reader for upper grades? The fact that they are really true stories and out of the experience of one who was at the time a shut-in—and who, therefore, must needs invite the birds to come to him—gives to them added interest and attractiveness. In them live the joys and