

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

SPEAK THEN TO THE CHILD

Man made his entrance into the world empty-handed and from materials about him he fashioned clothing, shelter and the utensils necessary to his habit.

Slowly but with remarkable directness he felt his way through the ages of stone, bronze, and iron.

The things he made were direct, simple, and as a result, good. When he attempted ornament, it also was simple, direct, and good.

Primitive man was a true artist and this instinct still obtains in the handicraft of any primitive or peasant people of today.

Somewhere, however, in the turmoil of so called civilization, in the maze and whirl of bewildering machinery, we have lost not only the craftsman but the ability also to feel, see, and enjoy the beauties of color and of form.

Like the fabled beings who could swallow themselves, the means has devoured the end and with all our striving in some respects we are still poorer than our primitive ancestors of the age of stone.

In creating imaginary wealth we have lost

the great inheritance so exquisitely nurtured and perfected through centuries of time.

Man still fashions material into form but he has forgotten why, and the great joy is gone. Far better had we lost speech than the thing of which we spoke.

The devious path of evolution is strewn with the ill we have discarded, the good we have lost, but Nature with wondrous provision is ever ready to hand us back our own.

Every child reverts to the primitive and with instinct swift and sure traces again in the short span from birth to maturity the entire path so patiently sought out by his countless ancestors in the centuries long sped.

And so through the child we may regain of heritage, for in him are found the rudiments of all that was good and ill of all the ages, and as these rudiments flash before his consciousness we may stay them with a word and miraculously they will flower again.

God directs the unreasoning spider and the ant but man is able to shape his own evolution. God and Nature help eagerly if man but gives the sign.

Having within our grasp the key let us then regain our knowledge of the laws of beauty, our joy in the work of these responsive hands and the exhilaration that comes with the power to create intelligently.

Speak then to the child through art and these things will come again to pass,—the miracle of God.—*The Toledo Museum Art News.*

All else passes but art endures.

Let us believe in art, not as something to gratify curiosity or suit commercial ends, but something to be loved and cherished because it is the Handmaid of Spiritual Life of the age.

GEORGE INNESS

FOREST SERVICE OFFERS PICTURES

The Virginia Forest Service has just completed arrangements for giving moving pictures and illustrated lectures throughout the state, dealing with forestry and forest fire control.

In order to make possible the showing of moving pictures in the remotest sections of the state, it was necessary to procure a special portable outfit consisting of a light truck in which has been installed a lighting plant, capable of producing 115 volts and 1500 watts of current. From this plant standing outside of any building, current may be carried inside over extension wires for operating the moving picture machine and for lighting the building.

The Forest Service has just purchased a powerful machine that shows both moving pictures and still pictures. The assembling and testing out of the machinery have been completed and the plant is now ready for service. Moving picture films and colored lantern slides of forests, forest fires and wild life, some of which were photographed in Virginia and North Carolina, have been generously loaned by the United States Forest Service at Washington. Some of these pictures, which are clear and interesting, illustrate the forest conditions as they are in Virginia, while others show scenes in the Rocky Mountains and other parts of the United States. At the same time, plans are being made by public and private agencies for taking a number of moving pictures and still pictures in Virginia, including forestry, forest fire control and wild life scenes. It is hoped that there will soon be a considerable variety of such pictures available for the benefit of the people of Virginia.

The operating of this equipment and the showing of these pictures will represent a substantial enlargement of the educational work of the Virginia Forest Service, which has been conducted in a small way for a

number of years. A special educational branch of the Forest Service has just been created and is now under the direction of Mr. James P. Andrews, who was for many years District Forester for the Piedmont District of Virginia. It is expected that the showing of these pictures, especially in the rural sections of the state, will have great value in bringing to the attention of the rural people the important place that forests have in the life of the people of the state and the importance of protecting the forests from injury by fire, reckless abuse in other respects, and the reclamation of idle lands and waste lands by reforestation.

The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has many rare and interesting pictures of wild life which were photographed by Mr. Herbert K. Job. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Job will, in many instances, work together in the field of forestry and game education, thus working for a balanced program for the conservation of forests and wild life.

SIGHT SAVING CLASSES

"In sight-saving classes, through the use of special large type books, movable desks, ideal lighting, and special teaching methods, children with little vision are not only given the same education that children with full vision receive, but they are also taught how to conserve their remaining sight. Educators have found that many children who had been accounted stupid or sullen displayed high intelligence and pleasing dispositions as soon as their defective vision was recognized and they were placed in sight-saving classes." — MRS. WINIFRED HATHAWAY, *Associate Director*, of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.