

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION AS AN ACCREDITED SUBJECT

Modern physical and health education is more and more receiving recognition by educational authorities as having creditable value for high school graduation and college entrance requirements.

Some states require such credit for high school graduation, and the number of colleges and universities which are accepting such credit within the required units for entrance is rapidly increasing.

It is recognized, however, that all physical and health education programs as presented are not entitled to such recognition, and for protection in this the institutions of higher learning look to the state departments of education.

Some states are stipulating definite minimum requirements for the program which must be maintained in order for any school to be accredited, others are allowing such credit in schools which meet designated minimum standards without affecting the general accrediting, but in addition obtain the approval of the State Department of Education.

The minimum requirements for accreditation of the subject vary somewhat in different states. A few emphasize equipment and space, others emphasize the preparation of instructors. The time allotted to the subject is another important factor.

The subject of physical and health education, like any other subject, to be creditable must be purposeful and progressive. Subject matter, type, and arrangement considering the pupil needs within the particular grade is more vital than grade placement within the school, although this latter can not be altogether overlooked. Such application will allow credit to be based on increased and applied knowledge and improvement, rather than on standard physical achievement tests.

The program should be emphasized and carried on as a definite subject, but if maximum results are to be obtained, it must go further, embracing correlation with other subjects and application and practice of proper ideals and proper habits through actually living them.

While highly prepared instructors, expensive equipment, and adequate and properly prepared space will materially assist toward a creditable program, they alone will not necessarily produce a creditable program. The subject must be a vital part of the whole school curriculum, it must assist and be assisted by the entire school and embrace the physical, mental, and spiritual living day of the pupil.

ELIOT V. GRAVES

DR. MARY EVELYN BRYDON

In the recent death of Dr. Mary Evelyn Brydon, the State Board of Health has lost one of its outstanding members. With her training both as a nurse and a physician, Dr. Brydon was especially fitted for her position as head of the Child Welfare Division. During the twelve years she was in this position she did much in lowering the cases of contagious diseases, in stressing

the importance of health, in organizing clinics for the pre-school child, and in promoting the Five-Point Program.

Her activities recently were concentrated especially on the sanitation program that has been developed by the State Board of Health and she had been putting her usual energy and vim into this. The attack of pneumonia found her with lowered resistance and soon overwhelmed her system.

The death of Dr. Brydon, in private life Mrs. George MacKay, is a marked loss to the State Board of Health and to the State of Virginia. It will be long before her place can be filled.

R. F. W.

WILL ROGERS ON MAY DAY

I am mighty glad so many people in America are taking up the children work. I used to think there might be some chance of getting our Government interested in it, but that was hoping too much. Being a Ranchman and Farmer and also a child owner, I have often wished that when one of my children got sick I could wire or call up some Government expert and have him come look after them, like I can do if one of my cows, or pigs get some disease.

If your fertilizer is not agreeing with your land the Government will send a specialist, but if the food is not agreeing with the Baby, why, we have to find out what's the matter ourselves, and lots of times Parents mean well but they don't know much.

So I am glad that you people are interested in Children. Course they are a lot of trouble, but we just don't seem to be smart enough to find something that would be less trouble that would replace them.

That's the only thing we are shy now is synthetic children.

It's not a bad idea whoever thought of doing something for the children.

If it works and you improve them, I will send you mine.

Yours, WILL ROGERS

The real value of any educational experiment consists not only in its principles, but also in the success with which it interprets those principles in practical form.

EUGENE R. SMITH

THE READING TABLE

RESEARCH AND MEDICAL PROGRESS AND OTHER ADDRESSES. By J. Shelton Horsley. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1929. Pp. 208. \$2.00.

These addresses by one of the most noted surgeons in the South are interesting and show breadth of thinking and of vision.

The first address emphasizes the fact that no real progress in medicine has ever been made without research and that medicine has reached its present importance only through those who were not willing to stop thinking after they entered their profession.

The titles of some of the other addresses which were made before various medical and surgical sections or society meetings give an idea of the variety of thought: The Ideals of a Surgeon; The Career of a Surgeon; Should Surgeons Tell the Truth? The Medical Profession of Virginia; Politics and Medicine.

The book is well written and well correlated. There is much food for thought on the different pages.

RACHEL F. WEEMS

FOUNDERS OF OUR COUNTRY. Revised Edition. By Fanny E. Coe. New York: American Book Company. 1930. Pp. 330.

A readable book for boys and girls. The pictures add much to the attractiveness of the volume. Magellan, the Cabots, Champlain, James Oglethorpe, Washington, and Franklin are among the prominent figures introduced. The lists of reference books on pages 333-336 are helpful to teachers and pupils.

THE NEW WORLD'S FOUNDATION IN THE OLD. By Ruth West and Willis Mason West. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1929. Pp. 398.

This introduction to the study of elementary American history begins in the stone age, surveys the Greeks, Romans, Teutons, the Spanish colonies, and four revolutions, beginning with the English Revolution of the 17th century. Pictures and maps are numerous. Six colored plates add much to the visual appeal.

RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE. By Gustav A. Lundquist and Clyde B. Moore. Boston: Ginn and Company. 1929. Pp. 483. \$1.72.

This book is designed to meet the needs of rural high schools for a general social science text with emphasis on rural problems. Moral and mental factors, religious factors, educational factors, and economic factors are presented in relation with political and social factors. The pictures, maps, and graphs are helpful.