

THE READING TABLE

THE STORY OF MODERN PROGRESS. By Willis Mason West. New York: Allyn and Bacon, 1931. Pp. 802. \$2.00.

This is a new edition of Professor West's book of the same title. It is gotten up in the handsome style that one expects to find in all the Allyn and Bacon publications, the maps and other illustrations being very attractive. The index is unusually full. However, the teacher will probably regret the lack of review questions at the ends of the several chapters. The organization of the volume is also subject to rather serious criticism, especially in Parts VII, VIII, IX, and X. For example, it is hard to see why the accounts of Mussolini in Italy and of Gandhi in India, and of the Irish Free State, should be put near the middle of the book, with accounts of the Latin American revolutions, the World War, the League of Nations, and many other things following, that really came before in time, some as much as a century. And one is disappointed, I think, in looking over the outline of contents in vain for a chapter heading that definitely locates the League of Nations. One must turn to the index or make a rather careful search through the pages to locate the several rather fragmentary statements concerning it.

J. W. W.

EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING. By Charles W. Knudsen. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Doran & Company, 1932. Pp. 538. \$2.50.

Here is a book in supervision in secondary schools written as much for the teacher as for the supervisor, with the conscious purpose of bringing into greater harmony the interests of both.

The book is divided into four parts and an appendix, all knit together into a continuous program. Part I considers the types of ability that are believed to constitute teacher achievement, and the learning exercises she may use in developing the de-

sired skills, knowledge, and patterns of conduct on the part of the pupils. Part II consists of six chapters which are concerned with the methods for evaluating and improving instruction. Here is discussed the use of rating devices for evaluating teaching and group control, and the use of standardized tests for the same purpose. Part III takes up the problem of initiating a program of supervision, together with suggested steps. A good chapter on the conference is included. Part IV is concerned with methods of evaluating the supervisory program as a whole. Criteria for evaluating the results of supervision are given and discussed. The appendix includes three stenographic reports of lessons. These are actual unrevised reports and are significant for the problems they present of teachers' deficiencies. The appendix concludes with a simple method of calculating the coefficient of correlation.

The book is particularly striking for its careful scientific approach to the problem of supervision and for the absence of technical jargon which so often lessens the value of such a book for beginners. C. P. S.

A CHILD'S LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. By Louise Embree. Illustrated by Clotilde Embree. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc. 1932. Pp. 255. \$2.50.

A beautiful book whose author makes America's great hero live again for children from six to eleven years of age. It takes up the story with Washington's early boyhood and carries it through until his death, telling it in simple, colorful language that will delight those for whom it was written. It abounds with intimate descriptions of all the interesting things that seem to have belonged to that great man's life. The bibliography indicates that the author has taken considerable pains to give an authentic account. What a charming tribute at this 200th anniversary of his birth! The illustrations must not be neglected, for they

add much to the charm of the book, comprising, as they do, fifty silhouettes quick with life and vigor and maps which carry out the silhouette idea. It's the sort of reading one likes to put into the hands of children.

B. J. L.

OUR WORLD TODAY. By DeForest Stull and Roy W. Hatch. New York: Allyn and Bacon. 1931. Pp. 721. \$2.00.

These two sentences of the preface state a commendable purpose: "It is a geography in the true sense, but links its story with history and the other social studies wherever such correlation vivifies for the pupil the topic under consideration. It seeks to preserve a sensible mean between the restricted science of the physiographer and the confusing incongruities of certain fusion courses."

The book recommends itself by such characteristics as the liberal use of splendid illustrations and other visualizing aids, the helps and activities throughout the text, and the stressing of reasons on nearly every page. Although many of the maps have place names in both the Anglicized spelling and also that spelling used officially in the country of their occurrence, only the Anglicized spelling is used in the discussions of the text. The material regarding the countries of each part of the world is organized about a plan considering the commodities produced and the industries of the area. All seventh and eighth grade teachers using the unit plan of study will therefore find this an unusually helpful reference.

R. M. H.

"THERE IS ONE DEBT for which no moratorium can with safety be declared. It is the one to which the Minister of Education in England, H. A. L. Fisher, referred, in the midst of the war, 'The eternal debt of maturity to childhood and youth—education'."—*Dr. John H. Finley in New York Times.*

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS ALUMNAE

Following the election of major officers of the student body on February 11, a second election was held for other officers on March 1. The newly-elected officers are:

Sally Face, Hampton, vice-president Student Government; Laura Melcher, Winston-Salem, N. C., secretary-treasurer Student Government; Virginia Ruby, Lynchburg, vice-president Y. W. C. A.; Elizabeth Tudor, Thomasville, N. C., secretary Y. W. C. A., Rebecca Comer, Roanoke, treasurer Y. W. C. A.; Margaret Campbell, Richmond, vice-president Athletic Association; Marietta Melson, Eastern Shore, business manager Athletic Association; Virginia Jones, Gordonsville, business manager *Breeze*; Catherine Manke, Hampton, business manager *Schoolma'am*; Sarah Lemon, Atlanta, Georgia, editor-in-chief *Handbook*; Lois Bishop, Norfolk, recorder-of-points; Pamela Parkins, Norfolk, head cheer leader.

In celebration of Drama week, the new members of the Stratford Dramatic Club presented on Saturday, February 13, in Wilson Hall, two one-act plays, *Bargains in Cathay* by Rachel Field, and *Washington's First Defeat* by Charles Nirdlinger.

The cast of *Bargains in Cathay*:

Miss Emily Gray, Jaquelyn Johnston; Jerry O'Brien, Edna Motley; Miss Doty, Jane Maphis; Thompson Williams, Virginia Hallett; Miss Bliss, Mildred Simpson; Mr. Royce, Janie Shaver; A gentleman from New York, Elizabeth Carson.

In contrast with the ultra-modern first playlet was the Colonial charm of antebellum days which provided the setting for the second number. An extremely humorous picture was painted of George Washington's clumsiness in relation to his love affair with a southern belle, Lucy Grimes. Her refusal of his offer of marriage proved

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