

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.

SEEN IN THE PUBLIC PRINTS

Dr. Edward Moseley Gwathmey, formerly a professor of English at William and Mary College, and during the past session director of William and Mary extension work in Norfolk, has just been elected president of Converse College at Spartansburg, South Carolina. He assumed his new duties January 1.

Dr. James L. Tryon, director of admissions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has completed a six weeks' tour of colleges and preparatory schools in the South. Virginia institutions which he visited and at which he spoke on various branches of engineering education included the University of Virginia, Washington and Lee University, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the Staunton Military Academy.

Dr. B. H. Van Oot, state supervisor of trade and industrial education, Richmond, Virginia, was one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the American Vocational Association held in Kansas City December 7 to 10, 1932.

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, was the Founders' Day speaker at

the Medical College of Virginia, in Richmond, on December 1. He was introduced by Dr. W. T. Sanger, president of the Medical College and formerly dean of the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg.

The old Alexandria Academy, now used as an overflow building for the elementary grades of Alexandria, was memorialized as the oldest free school in continuous operation in the United States at a special ceremony on December 14. Recent research has disclosed that the building was built under the direction of George Washington in 1785, and that this academy received by his will the sum of \$4,000. Robert E. Lee was a pupil here from 1818 to 1824. Among the speakers at the exercises was President Francis P. Gaines, of Washington and Lee University.

Miss Rose Lees Hardy, formerly of Winchester, Virginia, and for many years assistant superintendent in charge of elementary instruction in Washington, D. C., died on October 26.

The decrease in illiteracy from 11.2% in 1920 to 8.7% in 1930 of the total population of Virginia is shown in a study of the Fifteenth Census of the United States recently made by William E. Byrd, Jr., an instructor in the University of Virginia. In this period white illiteracy in Virginia dropped from 5.9% to 4.8%; negro illiteracy from 23.5% to 19.2%.

W. B. Priddy has resigned as business manager of the State Teachers College at Fredericksburg—a post to which he was appointed last August.

Christopher K. Taffe, of Louisville, Kentucky, has been named professor of English at Hampden-Sydney College to succeed the late Dr. Asa Dupuy Watkins.

Lucy Mason Holt, of the Norfolk schools,

was elected president of the Virginia Education Association for a term of two years at the last session of the Educational Conference in Richmond at Thanksgiving.

Hollins College was admitted to membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools at its New Orleans meeting December 1 and 2. President W. P. Few, of Duke University, is the newly-elected president of the Southern Association for the current year. Dean K. J. Hoke, of William and Mary, is a member of the executive committee.

The face of Robert Emory Blackwell, president of Randolph-Macon College, appears on the cover of the *Virginia Journal of Education* for December, 1932. In a leading editorial his fine service to education is commented upon, as well as his unique distinction in having been connected with Randolph-Macon as student, professor, or president, for more than fifty years. The *Journal* further says:

"Dr. Blackwell is one of the best examples we have of a man who sees life steadily and sees it whole as Matthew Arnold has defined the man of culture. He presides in the academic grove at Ashland with an intellectual atmosphere of sweet reasonableness. While he is of the South, his interests and vision are not limited by sectional or State boundaries. His contacts with broad minds at home and abroad have widened his horizon and deepened his conception of human relations so that his sympathetic outlook is as wide as the world and his convictions are as deep as the fountains of life. Dr. Blackwell is bigger than any section, creed, or race. He has long held membership on interracial commissions. His counsel is sought and his judgment followed in the delicate projects of bringing about better interracial understanding and in the negotiations for the unification of the two branches of his own church (Methodist).

"Dr. Blackwell possesses a happy disposition and the gentlemanly characteristics that make all classes feel at home in his presence. This fine Christian gentleman is a prophet even in the new era of modern civilization, and in sympathetic understanding of the life of today he is as young as any with whom he works. Those men who in their youth found their way to the academic grove at Ashland are well aware what it meant to touch the hem of his intellectual garment, to breathe the academic atmosphere, and to drink at this pure fountain of scholarship for four years.

"The world admires and likes to pause now and then to do honor and give deserved recognition to such a rare personality as Dr. Blackwell."

Superintendent A. L. Bennett, of the Albemarle County schools, has found that \$3,000 would supply textbooks to children in his county who do not now have this necessary equipment. "We cannot and should not send children home," he says, "because they do not have books. We must use every ingenuity we can conceive of to keep the children profitably at work."

Dr. W. S. Learned of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet of the Association of Virginia Colleges to be held at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond on Friday, February 10. He will present the results of his five-year study on the Relations of Secondary and Higher Education.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

ESTHER EVERETT LAPE is member-in-charge of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the American Foundation.

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