

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.

PROFESSORS UNDERPAID

"It is generally conceded that college instructors and professors constitute the worst paid group in the teaching profession," states J. W. Crabtree, of the National Education Association. "The seriousness of this oversight," he continues, "is readily appreciated when we take into account the fact that no group of teachers receives pay in proportion to the services rendered. College authorities are fully aware of this condition. They throw the responsibility for it on state legislatures and educational foundations. They claim that it is much easier to secure funds for buildings and equipment than for increasing the pay of professors. *I have sometimes wondered whether these authorities made the determined effort for adequate pay for the staff that they make for a larger campus and for additional buildings.* I wonder whether they realize as fully as they think they do that men and women, not buildings, make the college or university.

"It is surprising that the college can hold as many of its high class instructors as it does on present salary schedules. The effect is being felt, however, and with the continuance of low pay it must in the course of time be disastrous to the institution.

"Should members of the legislature in each of the states become convinced as I am convinced that freshman mortality could be greatly reduced by increasing the efficiency of the teaching staff, there is no question but that funds would be added to appropriations for the specific purpose of increasing salaries."

AWARD TO BE OFFERED IN CONTEST

The Conference on Education and Race Relations, an organization of Southern educators heading up in Atlanta, has just announced the offer of a score of awards to teachers, schools, and pupils of the Southern states in connection with an educational project in history and civics, entitled "America's Tenth Man." All schools below college grade in the fifteen Southern states, including Maryland and Missouri, are eligible to participate.

A valuable "Tenth Man" library is offered for the best work in each state, and a number of substantial cash awards for the best individual and group work in the entire area. The project is sponsored by public school administrators of all the Southern States, including most of the state superintendents of education.

Its promoters state that it has been tried with notable success in hundreds of schools and that, in their judgment, it presents an unusual opportunity to do a timely and important piece of work. Full information may be had from R. B. Eleazer, the Secretary of the Conference, at 703 Standard Building, Atlanta.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES SHOW GROWTH

Miss Dorothy Brown, Assistant Supervisor of Public School Libraries, State Department of Education, has charge of the Department Library which contains approximately 1200 books and ten or twelve educational magazines devoted to the var-

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ious phases of education. These books have been classified and catalogued for the use of the staff, but may be borrowed by teachers, principals, superintendents, and school officials in Richmond or elsewhere in Virginia. The library contains a card catalog, vertical file, book truck, magazine rack, book-ends, shelf labels and pamphlet boxes. It is used as a model library and is frequently visited by principals and school superintendents.

Seventy-six high schools in twenty-seven counties and thirteen cities were visited by Miss Brown during the year. Intensive organization work was done in school libraries in Appomattox, Pittsylvania, Brunswick, Greensville, Southampton, and Nansemond counties. Actual work was done in the classification of books; organization of student assistant groups; weeding out dead materials; installation of adequate charging systems and introduction of plans for library publicity of reading interests. Suggestions for library development were given to the school librarian, principal and division superintendent. A letter restating the suggestions was sent to the librarian following each visit.

During this year the supervisor will help to make the library a working laboratory for the entire school; to make the material in the library fit the curriculum of the school; to make the library a social unit for training good citizens; to encourage the teacher-librarians to stimulate the reading interests of school children; to install in the school library an adequate charging system; to organize the student assistant group to provide lessons to teach the use of books and libraries; to weed out undesirable books; to suggest books for future purchases; and to suggest a method of classification.

True hope is swift and flies with swallows' wings,
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures
Kings.—*Shakespeare.*

THE READING TABLE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES. Twelfth Yearbook of the Department of Elementary School Principals, National Education Association. Edited by Helen B. Shove, Aaron Kline, and John S. Thomas. Washington, D. C.; National Education Association. 1933. Pp. 576. \$2.00.

The reader of this excellent yearbook concludes from its abundance of evidence that "the school library is the center of a modern program of education." Its ten chapters present studies by fifty specialists in the field of elementary education, along with library floor plans, reading lists, book-lists, etc., all carefully organized and summarized, section by section. Ably edited, the yearbook makes it easy for every elementary school principal to survey and investigate the whole subject of the library. He will thus keep abreast of his times, for "the most far-reaching and important movement in elementary education today lies in the establishment of libraries and the development of a technic for the practical use of them."

Too many libraries and teachers, it is pointed out, "have a background of literature insufficient to enable them to distinguish the tawdry from the genuine, the sentimental from the sincere, pseudo-scientific statements from the scientifically accurate. The successful librarian must know books and be interested in them, not only children's books, but books in general."

"There is no excuse," the yearbook states, "for not having some kind of library. Books are not costly today, parents are ready to help, and children long for activities which will challenge their ingenuity. One thing chiefly is lacking where libraries do not exist—that is leadership. An opportunity to serve childhood through an enriched education beckons to the teachers, librarians, and principals of America's elementary schools."

C. T. L.