

THE READING TABLE

THE FACTS OF FICTION. By Norman Collins. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. 1933. Pp. 312. \$3.50.

In twenty-one sparkling chapters Mr. Collins surveys the field of English prose fiction from Samuel Richardson, whom he calls the first psychological novelist, to present-day writers, whom he views with pithy sagacity. He is partly biographer and partly commentator, and while he does not reject all traditional evaluations his judgments are independent and stimulating. Passages lend themselves so well to quotation that it seems a shame not to include a few, particularly those in which he deals with the contemporary American scene; with Theodore Dreiser, "the colossal, solemn elephant bringing up the wake of the lively circus of modern fiction"; with Upton Sinclair, that "minor American Tolstoy," who is "half Crusader and half chucker-out"; with James Branch Cabell, whose books "suggest the moonlit literary escapades of an impressionable school girl who has pondered too long on the hysterico-lyrical romances of *The Yellow Book*." Mr. Collins has avoided dullness and smugness, and if it is ever wise to neglect the reading of literature in order to read about it, here is one volume which should not be overlooked. It is more interesting than some of the books with which it deals.

EDNA TUTT FREDERIKSON

DIRECTED LEARNING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. By Walter S. Monroe and Ruth Streitz. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1932. Pp. 480. \$2.50.

Designed for the teacher in the classroom, this readable book on method of teaching in the elementary grades deals first, with general problems involved in learning, and secondly, with particular subject matter such as reading, arithmetic, handwriting, etc.

Its point of view is practicably modern. A list of activities for the reader is offered at the end of each chapter. Each list is not

only suggestive of what may be done, but also furnishes food for the more thoughtful teacher.

M. L. S.

DANCING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. By the Committees on Dancing of the American Physical Education Association for the Years 1931 and 1932. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company. 1933. Pp. 134. \$1.00.

This group of selections from reports of two committees of the American Physical Education Association includes discussions by such prominent teachers as Margaret H'Doubler, Martha Hill, Dorothy La Salle, and others. Aspects of dancing as a teaching subject are considered, for example, methods, objectives, subject matter, its place in the major course in physical education, its place in the preparation of the classroom teacher. There is valuable and much needed help in the report on Dancing for Boys in the Elementary School. The chapter on Rhythm and the chapter on Accompaniment for the Dance make the book a complete and comprehensive whole. One feels that as a firm foundation it is absolutely necessary to every dancing teacher.

H. M.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY. By Elbert C. Cole. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 1933. Pp. 518. \$1.75.

This book is adapted to the high school field of teaching. Its outstanding features are the excellent choice of subject matter and illustrations and its arrangement for effective teaching. It is a practical book and at the same time adequately covers the fundamentals of the subject. It is the type of elementary text that a teacher may use and still keep his self-respect.

G. W. C.

VIRGINIA: State Name, Flag, Seal, Song, Bird, Flower, and Other Symbols. By George Earle Shankle. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company. 1933. Ill. 16 pages. 25 cents.

A serviceable little booklet so complete in most detail that one is amazed not to find Wayland's "Old Virginia," (music by Rue-

bush), included with the state songs. Only songs listed are "Call of Virginia" and "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny."

The state flower, of course, is the dogwood; the illustration shows the pink dogwood. Surely the white dogwood is the more common. Don't most Virginians think of the white variety as the state flower?

AN EASY WORK AND PLAY BOOK. By Inez Howard, Alice Hawthorne, and Mae Howard. Pictures by Nell Stolp Smock. Chicago: Follett Publishing Company. Primer. 1932. Pp. 64. Book I. 1933. Pp. 95.

Delightful workbooks which may be used simply as readers if one wishes. As the authors suggest, they provide for "reading, coloring, matching, cutting, pasting," through which children receive "practice in comprehension, retention, organization, and pictorial association."

MUSIC IN RURAL EDUCATION. By Osbourne McConathy, W. Otto Miessner, Edward Bailey Birge, and Mabel E. Bray. New York: Silver, Burdett and Company. 1933. Pp. 290. \$1.20.

A program for the teacher in one and two-room schools, based on *The Music Hour*, One-Book Course.

SALLY AND BILLY IN WINTER; SALLY AND BILLY IN SPRING. By Marjorie Hardy. Illustrated by Matilda Brauer. Chicago: Wheeler Publishing Co. 1933. Each, 48 pages.

"YOUNG FU" WINS NEWBERY AWARD

The John Newbery Medal, awarded annually for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, was presented on October 18 to Mrs. Elizabeth Foreman Lewis, for her book, "Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze," by the Section for Library Work with Children of the American Library Association, at their annual meeting in Chicago.

The Newbery Award Committee is composed of fifteen children's librarians from all over the country. The award was established in 1921 by Frederic G. Melcher, editor of the *Publisher's Weekly*, to emphasize the need of good books for children

and to give the same encouragement to their writing as is given to books of other types. The children's librarians, because of their close contact with both books and children, Mr. Melcher considered in a position to make such an award.

In "Young Fu," the new spirit that is rejuvenating an age-old civilization is personified in a young Chinese boy apprenticed to a master coppersmith of the old school. Bandits, communists, artisans, scholars and all the teeming life of a crowded city parade through the vivid pages of the book.

Although "Young Fu" is Mrs. Lewis' first book, she is the author of numerous stories for children which have appeared in juvenile magazines, such as *St. Nicholas* and *Boy's Life*. Her short stories have been starred a number of times in O'Brien's collection of the best short stories of the year, and many have appeared in Braille.

Born in Baltimore, and educated in that city and in New York, Mrs. Lewis worked in various fields as a young woman: on architectural designs for doll houses, railroad statistics, institutional work in a Slavic settlement, and religious education in a church center.

In 1917 she went to China, finding it only a short step from work with foreigners here to work abroad. Her days were spent in the office of the Mission Board, and evenings in religious education classes in Shanghai. The next year she spent in Chungking, the scene of "Young Fu." Next she taught in the Girls' Boarding School in Nanking, and later in the Nanking Boys' Academy. Here she was married in 1921 to John Abraham Lewis, principal of the Boys' Academy and son of Bishop Wilson Seeley Lewis of Iowa and China.

Severe illness forced Mrs. Lewis to return to the United States, and she now spends most of her time in a cottage in the woods overlooking the Severn River, Maryland. Her primary interests are her home, her young son, China, books, country life, animals, and writing.