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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

COUNTY CONSOLIDATION

Of prime importance, of course, in the evolution of county government in Virginia is the consolidation of administrative functions and the centralization of executive authority in one person, to the end that local government not only may be more efficient but more economical.

So far, just two counties in Virginia—Albemarle and Henrico—have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the general statute of 1932 to discard their old form of government in favor of one of the two alternate forms set up in the law. One other county—Arlington—is operating under a governmental form similar to those in Albemarle and Henrico.

As we have said, this change of set-up within the county is of prime importance. That movement, however, is well under way and we may expect the new forms of government to be adopted with increasing frequency as their benefits are revealed in the various localities in which they are in operation.

It is interesting in this connection to note that the State Commission on County Government regards now as its primary object-

ive the promotion of county consolidations. This, too, is an excellent idea, if it is confined, for the present, to administrative functions.

In all probability, if Virginia now were cut up for the first time into political subdivisions, the State would contain not more than twenty counties as against its existing 100. The arrangement as we know it was a continuing process over a period which enjoyed few facilities, all of a slow nature, for transportation. Of necessity, the counties had to be small, in order that officials might easily make their rounds.

The situation now is entirely different. The length of the average county can be traveled in less than an hour. Virtually every point in it is easily accessible for verbal communication by telephone.

It would be next to impossible to abolish any county in Virginia. The very names of these counties stir memories. They are deeply rooted in the history of the State and of the nation. The people have for the counties a sentimental attachment which assures their continued existence.

However, the functions of these counties can be consolidated without disturbing in the least historical or sentimental values. And this should be done in the interest of governmental efficiency and of the taxpayer's pocketbook.

The commission has here a fertile field for its efforts.—*Richmond Times-Dispatch.*

THE WORLD'S WORST

Our schools of childhood are wonderful; from kindergarten up to high school they are the finest ever. Americans are at their best in handling children—and at their worst in dealing with ex-children who ought to be handled as grown-ups. The shame of our land is the high school, and the world's worst joke is our standard liberal arts college. Our ablest are there disabled.—WALTER B. PITKIN, in *Life Begins at Forty.*

VICTIMS OF ADAPTATION

To wade in marshes and sea margins is the destiny of certain birds, and they are so accurately made for this that they are imprisoned in those places. Each animal out of its habitat would starve. To the physician, each man, each woman, is an amplification of one organ. A soldier, a locksmith, a bank-clerk, and a dancer could not exchange functions. And thus we are victims of adaptation.

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

LOVING SACRIFICE

Certainly absolute freedom would be more beautiful if we were birds or poets; but co-operation and a loving sacrifice of a part of ourselves—or even of the whole, save the love in us—are beautiful if we are men living together.—GEORGE SANTAYANA.

THE READING TABLE

THE STORY OF OUR REPUBLIC. By Irving P. Foote. Yonkers-on-Hudson, New York: World Book Company. Pp. 434. \$1.24.

Well designed to stimulate historical interest in children of about the fifth grade level, this history textbook gives the pupil a clear view of the military, political, economic, social, and general cultural progress of the people of our country from the time of its discovery by white men. Nearly one-half of the space is devoted to the period prior to the inauguration of Washington as President and less than one-fifth of the material deals with the years since the Civil War. A high level of historical accuracy and fairness to all sections of the nation is maintained.

The book is well supplied with numerous illustrations in color, maps and charts that are easily comprehended, a variety of modern helps for the better teaching of history, a key to the pronunciation of difficult terms at their first appearance.

O. F. F.

ADOLESCENCE: Life's Spring Cleaning Time. By Beverley R. Tucker. Boston: The Stratford Company. 1933. Pp. 121. \$1.25.

Dr. Tucker, whose wide experience with nervous and mental diseases makes him an authority, needs no introduction in Virginia. This little book has come out of experiences which the author explains in terms that even the average layman can readily understand.

Since this period of life is perhaps the most important, in many respects, the volume has value both to teacher and to psychologist because one can see life's processes and the characteristics of the period, understand causes for maladjustments and disturbances, discover reasons for particularly careful guidance from the viewpoint of one versed in one of the oldest of sciences and in one which has probably had the closest contacts with human nature. The book is scientific in its approach, and the occasional critical attitude towards the teacher and parent is probably deserved.

B. J. L.

LA LOCURA DE AMOR. By Manuel Tamayo y Baus. Edited by William Archibald Whatley and Randolph Arnold Haynes. Newark, New Jersey: Silver, Burdett and Company. 1934. Pp. 214. \$1.00.

Tamayo's masterpiece, one of the finest historical dramas in Spanish literature, is now available for the first time in an edition suitable for high school and college use.

The editors have supplied carefully prepared exercises, notes, and vocabulary. The exercises have been well planned to afford opportunity for work at the intermediate level, with particular consideration of the graceful and dignified use of idiom which is so characteristic of Tamayo's style. Full-page black and white illustrations, of true Spanish character, depict six of the high points of the drama.

J. A. S.