

# THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

### THE ENGLISH COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON

A large attendance of Virginia teachers of English is expected when the National Council of Teachers of English holds its twenty-fourth annual meeting November 29 to December 1 in the Mayflower Hotel at Washington. "Tradition and innovation in the teaching of English in a time of accelerated social change" is the general topic of the meeting, as announced by the Council president, Professor Oscar J. Campbell of the University of Michigan.

Dr. Charles Swain Thomas of the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, will preside at the opening session on Thanksgiving Day evening, and Dr. Frank W. Ballou, superintendent of the Washington schools, will give the address of welcome. A representative of the national administration will explain the policies of the New Deal of importance to teachers, and the president's address on "English: Its Domestic and Foreign Policies" will close the program.

At the annual banquet on Friday evening, Stephen E. Kramer, first assistant superintendent of schools, Washington, will be the toastmaster. The speakers will be Rever-

end Francis P. Donnelly, S. J., of Fordham University; Dr. Allan Abbott, Teachers College, Columbia University; Thomas W. Gosling, director, Junior Red Cross; and Dean Marjorie Nicholson of Smith College.

Robert Frost and Dr. Esther C. Brunauer, secretary of International Relations of the American Association of University Women, will be the principal speakers at the luncheon on Saturday with which the convention will close. Mr. Frost will answer the question, "Can Poetry be Taught?" and Dr. Brunauer will discuss "National Socialist Youth in Germany."

Among those who will take part in the general session on Friday morning and in the sectional conferences are Willard W. Beatty, president of the Progressive Education Association; Bess Goodykoontz, assistant Commissioner of Education; William Hard, political writer and radio news commentator; Thomas L. Stix; Professor Robert E. Rogers of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Professor Alain Locke of Harvard University.

Several well-known authors will be the guests of honor at a tea which the faculty of Wilson College will give for the delegates to the convention. A special visit to the Folger Shakespearean Library has also been arranged.

All who are interested in educational progress and especially in the teaching of English are invited to attend the convention whether or not they are members of the National Council.

### MODELS OF ANCIENT DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

In response to requests from art and history teachers seeking new sources of inspiration in the teaching of those subjects the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania has supervised the preparation of accurate scale models of ancient domestic architecture, to be colored and assembled in the schools.

The models, which include Roman, Egyptian, Medieval and Babylonian houses, are

the product of months of cooperative study on the part of archaeologists from the University Museum, faculty members in the University's departments of ancient languages and fine arts, and experienced architects.

Drawn uniformly to a scale of three-eighths of an inch to one foot, the models are complete and accurate in every detail of architecture, decoration and furniture, according to Mr. Jayne. Wall thickness alone has been ignored, as all the models, with the exception of the Babylonian house, are of cardboard.

The walls and furnishings are printed on water color paper, mounted on cardboard, and are prepared in large sheets ready for cutting out, coloring and assembling. Complete descriptions of each model, color sheets and directions for assembling, and costume figures to scale are included.

The Roman house, of the First Century A. D., is based on Mau's "typical plan" of a Pompeiian house. The model illustrates the four types of Pompeiian wall painting and the four main types of Roman pavement, and demonstrates the development of Roman architecture from the Third Century, B. C., to 79 A. D.

It includes the famous mosaics from the House of the Faun, wall paintings from the House of Sallust, the House of the Tragic Poet, and the cubiculum from Boscoreale now in the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

The Egyptian house is of 1400 B. C., and is a restoration of the "Weinachtshaus" at Tell-el-amarna excavated recently by British and German archaeologists. It represents the main dwelling on the estate of an Egyptian nobleman at about the time of Tutankhamen.

Reconstructed from Viollet le Duc's studies in Medieval architecture and from Fifteenth Century miniatures, the Medieval house represents the home of a cloth merchant of Rouen at the beginning of the Fifteenth Century.

The Babylonian house project involves cut-out patterns for constructing in celotex a model of a town house in Ur of the Chaldees at about the time of Abraham. The walls of the Babylonian model are undecorated, and, according to University Museum authorities, the chief value of this model is to students of architecture and ancient history, rather than to students of art.

Of the various models, which are being distributed through the educational department of the University Museum in Philadelphia, the Roman is the largest when completed, measuring four feet by two feet by ten inches, and the smallest is the Medieval which is eighteen inches long, eight inches wide and fifteen inches high.

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## THE READING TABLE

ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION. By Jesse Feiring Williams and Clifford Lee Brownell. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1934. Pp. 596. \$3.00.

Health and physical education are presented as a single administrative unit; legal aspects of health service and instruction, organization, curriculum, and equipment are discussed, as well as budget and finance, and maintenance of public interest in, and support of, the health program. Although the book is designed as a textbook for students of physical education, it will be of value to superintendents and principals, as well as to physical education directors.

There are questions for study and discussion with each chapter, valuable illustrative material, and an appendix with diagrams for playing areas.

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## NEWS OF THE COLLEGE

New faculty appointments for the current session include Mrs. Bernice Reaney Varner as professor of home economics, Dr. G. A. Williams as professor of chemistry and physics, Miss Ferne Hoover as assistant librarian in place of Miss Anne