

teaching the higher citizenship in compliance with the supreme law of the land."

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the Virginia Library Association, held in Richmond recently, officers for 1934 were elected as follows:

President—Mr. C. W. Dickinson, Jr., Director, Libraries and Textbooks, State Board of Education, Richmond.

First Vice-President—Miss J. M. Campbell, Librarian, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg,

Second Vice-President—Mr. Ralph M. Brown, Librarian, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg.

Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Mary Louise Dinwiddie, Assistant Librarian of University of Virginia, University.

RICHMOND LIBRARIAN WINS BOOK MENDING KIT

Miss Lalla Mayo, librarian at Bainbridge Junior High School, won a book mending kit in connection with the school library exhibit at the recent meeting of the Virginia Education Association. Miss Mayo was awarded the kit in competition with 147 state school librarians. It contains tools and materials for the repairing of old and damaged books, and was donated by Demco Library Supplies, Madison, Wisconsin.

THE RIGHT METHOD

We decry the prevalence of formalism in our schools but by far the most serious type of formalism is that which is based upon the assumption that any one teaching procedure can be made to fit all educational materials, all teachers, and all learners. I should like to plead for intelligent teachers in the choice of their teaching methods at least a small fraction of that freedom which our educational theorists would grant to children in choosing the lessons that they are to learn.—*W. C. Bagley.*

THE READING TABLE

MANAGEMENT AND TEACHING TECHNIQUES. By George A. Retan. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1933. Pp. 370.

This book sets forth in clear, direct style the most important characteristics of all phases of teaching with special emphasis on the activity program. The author's purpose in writing it is to aid beginning teachers in the training school and also in the field to get a better idea of what education is and how to aid pupils in attaining it.

While there is nothing original in the techniques described, the underlying principles of development of a complete personality—through social adjustments and participation; through use of present interests, capacities, and needs of the individual; and through a scientific or problem-solving approach to learning—show use of sound psychology. It is one of the few books of its type that emphasizes the Gestalt theory in learning. "Learning," the author states, "is a continuous process of readjustment to the environment; a growth and development of the child as a result of his on-reaching self-activity. The concern of the teacher, in her work with the child, is in his interests, capacities, and abilities." According to this philosophy child study becomes the basis of all method.

In a very practical discussion of the place of the school in the community and the relationship of parent and teacher, especially as it affects subsequent influence on the development of the child, the author says, "Once the teacher has won the confidence of the parent and has been able to help the child somewhat, she will be in a position to be of real service in guiding the future education of the child."

As a textbook for student teachers the book will probably find its greatest usefulness, since it is so clear, suggests many valuable exercises, and has an excellent bibliography. Beginners in the field and any teacher not familiar with the procedures in

the activity program will find its contents helpful because of the practical applications made.

VIRGINIA BUCHANAN

THE BEGINNINGS OF TOMORROW. By Herbert Adolphus Miller. New York: D. C. Heath and Company. 1933. Pp. 310. \$1.80.

This most stimulating book has as its task presentation of the far-reaching changes taking place in oriental civilizations. The impact of western capitalistic materialism against these age-old cultures gives the author reason to believe that in the long run the East will have met, and perhaps conquered, the West culturally, if not in a military sense. The problems of nationalism, revolution, imperialism, religion, and communism are presented as minor melodies in the great symphony. As a Teachers' Reading Circle book for the year 1933, *The Beginnings of Tomorrow* should greatly stimulate the thinking of teachers who read it and re-vitalize their instruction, particularly in the field of social studies. An excellent bibliography of recent books dealing with different countries of the Near and Far East enables the reader to carry on with the germinal ideas of the book itself.

W. J. G.

PHYSIOLOGY OF MUSCULAR ACTIVITY. By Edward C. Schneider. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1933.

As stated on the jacket, this little book "clarifies the physiologic processes underlying bodily activities, and applies the facts to practical problems of training, staleness, fatigue, physical fitness," and does this splendidly *provided* the reader has a thorough grounding in the fundamental sciences of chemistry and elementary human physiology. As a reference work for the teacher of physiology or physical training, or as a text for students with the necessary background this book leaves little to be desired.

However, it is not recommended as a useful work unless the reader has the afore-

mentioned grounding, and will not be particularly useful to any teacher not so trained.

R. L. PHILLIPS

THE HEALTH SCHOOL ON WHEELS. By J. Mace Andress and I. H. Goldberger. New York: Ginn & Co. 1933. Pp. 399. 80 cents.

This book may be used as a reading text, a reference book, or a book to be read for enjoyment only. Both the subject matter and style of writing appeal to children of the middle grades. The facts about how citizens in a rather ideal city keep healthy are accurately and pleasingly presented. As the title suggests, the book is a narrative of trips taken by school children to various industrial places of the city, such as restaurants, hotels, dairies, factories, and harbor shops. The health facts are not "preachy," but are rather a natural part of the record of the excursions. Newspaper articles, pictures, samples of children's work, old-time beliefs, scientific progress, etc., furnish variety and humor.

The pictures are not large or colorful, but the action and humor in them make a strong appeal to children. They are meaningful: health truths are impressed upon the child's mind. The vocabulary is such that children may read the book with reasonable ease.

GLADYS GOODMAN

AN INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION. Third Edition. By George Willard Frasier and Winifred Dockery Armentrout. Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Company. 1933. Pp. 440. \$1.80.

This new revision has some valuable changes in line with modern thinking in Education: a more comprehensive discussion of Dewey's philosophy; emphasis upon character education; a statement of the ethics of the profession; new items in the references at the end of each chapter, thus bringing the reading matter up-to-date; and other things of interest. It lends itself, therefore, to more adequate use in the classroom.

B. J. L.