

Does the superintendent report or confer with the director of teacher training in regard to his observation of student teachers? Replies again range from "no" to "close co-operation." Many colleges seem to have no definite plan for supervision by the superintendent or at least do not report it.

In regard to the compensation received by the superintendent from the college for his specialized supervision, seven say "nothing"; two say "yes"; and one does not answer. The amount of compensation is mentioned by the two colleges and varies. One pays \$50 per semester, and the other pays a yearly salary of \$400.

The same questions were asked in regard to the connection with teacher training of the high-school principal as in the case of the superintendent. In the main, the principal has a closer connection with the work of student teaching than the superintendent and, in some cases, less. In some colleges he is the one consulted by the college teacher-training official or officials and co-operates in the selection and supervision of student teaching rather than the superintendent. In two colleges he visits the student teacher several times a semester. Several colleges fail to answer this question. In five colleges he advises with the student teacher as well as with the supervising teacher and the director. About one-half of the ten colleges answer that the principal does not supervise the work of the student teacher, whereas the remaining colleges have failed to answer this question.

Three of the ten colleges offer no compensation or honorarium to the principal for his supervision. Three of the colleges, however, offer \$75, \$200, and \$275, respectively.

By way of conclusion one might say that each college seems to be trying to meet the conditions under which it finds itself. At the same time it is apparent that the colleges could profit by an interchange of experience in this complex field of teacher training.

After reading these reports one begins to wonder just how much the supervision of student teaching, on the part of the supervising teacher, superintendent, and principal, is really worth and as to whether the college and public schools are not missing much that would benefit in the better training of teachers and a better safeguarding of the interests of the pupil if there were a more definite and thoroughgoing plan in the matter of supervising.

Judging from college experience, as indicated by these returns, it would seem that compensation should be paid to those engaged in the actual procedures of supervision rather than the school system as a whole. The public schools profit by the increased preparation and skill in supervision of these better trained teachers without much, if any, increase in salary.

One is impressed, too, with the fact that a number of the colleges are dissatisfied with their present arrangements with the public schools and would like to have them changed but are apparently groping without much hope of arriving at a workable basis. It would seem that the State Department of Education could strengthen this whole matter by setting up more definite standards for the preparation of supervisors and backing up the colleges in their attempt to lift teacher-training requirements.

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## ON BEANS WHEN THE BAG IS OPENED

**P**HILLIP GUEDALLA tells the tale (in his *Fathers of the American Revolution*, as I recall) of one who came to Pontius Pilate, when Pilate was an aged man, to ask, "Was not Jesus of Nazareth crucified during your procuratorship of Palestine?"

"Jesus?" replied the old man, "Jesus of Nazareth? I don't remember."

Doubtless the tale is true, essentially if



not historically. It illustrates a refreshing naïvete that seems inherent in human make-up. We are not able to detect a significant event when it occurs. Our evaluations of the significance of what is happening about us are always (I think it may be said) false. Occasionally, to be sure, someone will hit by chance on the thing. But only by chance. The Pilate story can be matched over and over again.

*Item:* The greatest classic in the English language was not intended by its author for publication. Nor was it published until some time after his death, and then by a couple of friends who caused publication of "these trifles" as a memorial to a good fellow who deserved, they apparently thought, one more whack at the public eye before he finally went out of mind altogether. Just a pleasant little deed as a little personal tribute to dear old Bill, who certainly wouldn't have a larger one. The reference is, of course, to the plays of Mr. Shakspeare.

*Item:* The greatest satire in the English language, bitter, biting, devastating, was written by a priggish parson and published by his grudging consent. Thereafter it was a source of annoyance to him and he would have liked to disown it; not because he repented his satire—he never recognized it. He wrote other treatises which not one in a million could name today. The reference, as you all know, is to *Alice in Wonderland*.

*Item:* One of the noblest volumes of verse in the English language was privately printed at the author's expense, not as a masterpiece but apparently because he wished a few copies to show to friends. A bookseller undertook to sell the copies the author didn't want and couldn't, even though he put them on a bargain counter for a penny apiece. Here, quite by accident, the verses were discovered and resuscitated by a couple of good guessers who probably would have passed them up had they received them in the ordinary course of affairs—one can gamble that it was the sur-

prise of finding anything even passable on the penny counter that pinned the attention on the verses. That, of course, is the tale of Fitzgerald's *Rubaiyat*.

*Item:* a scientific investigator made a discovery of exceptional theoretical and practical importance. He reported his research briefly in a scientific journal of his day. The report created no stir, and the investigator himself seems to have joined the conspiracy of silence. Thirty years later, after the investigator was dead, his paper was stumbled upon and became the basis of modern genetic theory. The investigator, as you are aware, was Gregor Mendel.

*Item:* Last year a man died whose incomparable work merits him a place among the immortals of American literature. But he was more than literatus; he recorded American life—not the life of the few, the life of the great, the famous, but the common life of the millions—as no one has ever recorded it. He was a superlative student of the American scene; superlative critic of everyday men and everyday events, not in the sense of fault-finding but in the sense of one who penetrates to the esse of the thing in faithfully recording it; he ranks therefore with O'Neill, Dreiser, Lewis, Mencken, and others of like sort, except that his touch is probably defter, certainly truer to the typical than that of any other. He was, moreover, the only person who has ever succeeded in recording the American language as spoken by the 92 per cent; philologists, especially the all-for-usage boys, should erect statues to him. It must be conceded that this person did enjoy wide popularity during his life—but his popularity was due to his being considered an uproarious funny-man. There is no present indication that he will ever come to occupy his true position, even though a handful do see in him a humanist rather than a humorist. The name is Ring Lardner.

*Item:* A member of the English government, in a hurry to join companions over



the week-end, decided it wasn't necessary to wait in order to sign an official paper that was being prepared. When he returned, more pressing matters demanded his attention, so the paper—an order to an English officer—was never sent. Even after it became apparent to all concerned, including the officer, that the order should have been sent, and everyone knew what the order was, nothing was done by anyone. This may be the most extraordinary tale of dilatoriness on record, and seems like it in the perspective of the years; but doubtless the matter is most readily explained by supposing that no one thought the paper was of much importance anyhow. The statesman was Lord George Germain; the officer who should have got the order was General Howe; the result of its not being sent was the surrender of Burgoyne and the establishment of the United States of America.

And so it goes. These examples, mind you, pop up merely from poking around in the débris of a disorderly mind with the blunt instrument of an unretentive memory. To contemplate what genuine research by a competent scholar might produce is appalling.—*The Kalends*.

### NEW FILMS OF EDUCATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**M**ANY of the great pictures of the coming season serve a double entertainment purpose," Will H. Hayes is reported as announcing. "Backgrounds vastly extended from the limitations imposed by the proscenium arch of the theatre and built upon a world canvas which only the camera makes possible, and music and action that appeal to the millions are joined in productions of higher dramatic, literary and artistic values."

Some of the leading pictures of the new season are listed below:

"*Romeo and Juliet*, with Leslie Howard and Norma Shearer, a picture which will present Shakespeare's immortal love story

not only as great motion picture entertainment, but as a challenge to the artistry, scope and settings of Shakespearean production achieved on any stage at any period.

"*The Good Earth* with Paul Muni and Luise Rainer in a dramatization of extraordinary scope and power, against the background of walled cities, palaces, the terraced farm lands and the great Wall of China, to vivify Pearl Buck's great novel.

"*Lost Horizon*, a picture starring Ronald Colman, which will unfold on the screen James Hilton's remarkable story with scenes of mysterious Tibet and the far-off Himalayas.

"*The Charge of the Light Brigade*, a story and dramatic spectacle of this epic of British heroism at Balaclava, suggested by Tennyson's poem of the men who rode into the jaws of death.

"*Garden of Allah*, starring Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer, a new dramatization of Robert Hichens' great novel, in which color photography will reproduce the beauty and mystery of ancient settings, the desert of Sahara, the passage of caravans, and other scenes of the desert.

"*Winterset*, a picturization of Maxwell Anderson's great stage success, in which Burgess Meredith and Margo will appear on the screen in the roles they originally created.

"*The Plough and the Stars*, based on Sean O'Casey's poignant drama of revolutionary Ireland, directed with the sweep and power that made 'The Informer' an outstanding achievement.

"*Anthony Adverse*, a picture done with majesty and power, which has caught the spirit and intense drama of Hervey Allen's spectacular historical novel.

"*Craig's Wife*, a screen version of the Pulitzer Prize play, produced with an all-star cast headed by John Boles, Rosalind Russell, and Billie Burke.

A number of films deal with the lives and exploits of great statesmen, great figures in