

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

Published monthly, except June, July, and August, by the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Entered as second-class matter March 13, 1920, at the postoffice at Harrisonburg, Virginia, under the act of March 3, 1879.



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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

BANE DISCUSSES SOCIAL SECURITY

Thirty-six states are now sharing in the benefits of those provisions of the Social Security Act which are administered by the Social Security Board, according to a statement recently made by Frank Bane, Executive Director of the Board, and formerly Commissioner of Public Welfare in Virginia.

"Already the protection of unemployment compensation," says Mr. Bane, "is a reality for more than 40 percent of all the workers who will ultimately receive such protection under the Social Security Act, and it appears now to be only a matter of months before social security will be a reality to a majority of the needy aged, the needy blind, and the dependent children of the country.

"I want to emphasize, however, that this is a matter largely in the hands of the states. The Federal Government, through the Social Security Board, stands ready not only to match state aid to these three large groups of needy persons but to pay for the administration of these state welfare plans. The Federal Government cannot, however,

under the Social Security Act, extend this aid to any state until that state has set up a plan for public assistance which is state-wide, which extends aid to people in cash rather than in grocery orders or commodity tickets, which assures an individual whose application for assistance is denied that he will have opportunity for a hearing before the state agency responsible for administration or supervision of the plan, and which meets two or three other simple requirements of the Social Security Act designed to insure efficient administration.

"The Act leaves to the states the decision as to who is to be considered needy, how much relief is to be given an individual; it leaves to the states the administration of these public-assistance plans.

"Social security as a public policy and program will be with us in some manner for years to come," Mr. Bane said. "We have adopted this policy here in America, adopted it after long, costly, and bitter experience; after study, extended research, and experimentation; after much discussion and debate; adopted it by overwhelming non-partisan majorities in both Houses of Congress, and it is now being adopted rapidly by the states of this Union.

"It has been referred to as a new program and yet essentially there is little in it that is new. It is in different form, but the component parts of it, the concrete in its foundation, the steel in its superstructure, the lumber, and the fittings have been lying around for a long time and we have made some use of them after a fashion, for many many years.

"Welfare, for instance, is one of the oldest functions of government, and we have exercised this function since the days of the colonies. Insurance against death, against old age, and against mishap is a well-established and generally approved way of doing things in our American mind. The Social Security Act is an outgrowth of the two."

ROBERT P. T. COFFIN TO ADDRESS ENGLISH COUNCIL AT BOSTON

"American Youth and English" will be the theme of the silver anniversary meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English to be held in Boston November 26-28, Dr. Dora V. Smith of the University of Minnesota, president, has announced.

Among those who will discuss various phases of the topic are Rudolph Lindquist, principal of Ohio State University High School, who will talk on youth's problems; Professor Walter Barnes of New York University, who will speak on youth and language; Clarence Sherman, librarian of Providence Public Library, who will present a public library program for youth; Dr. Phillips E. Osgood, rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Boston, and former actor, whose subject will be, "The Challenge of the Theatre and Photoplay in the Moulding of American Youth"; and Dr. Smith, whose presidential address will be on "American Youth and English."

Speakers at the annual banquet at the Hotel Statler, convention headquarters, on Friday evening of the Thanksgiving weekend will include Robert P. Tristram Coffin, poet and novelist, and Mrs. Harry A. Overstreet, author of "The Poetic Way of Release." Rachel Field, poet, author of "Time Out of Mind," and winner of the Newbery Medal for "Hitty, Her First Hundred Years," will be the featured speaker at the Saturday luncheon which closes the convention.

Others on the programs are President James B. Conant, Harvard University; Dr. James F. Hosis, Columbia University; Bertha Mahoney Miller, editor of the Horn Book; and H. N. Rivlin, College of the City of New York, who will describe the present status of research in that controversial subject, functional grammar.

In addition to elementary, high school, and college departmentals and the meetings of various committees, there will be a spec-

ial session at which the report of the Correlation Committee, to be published this fall by D. Appleton-Century Company, will be presented by the chairman, Miss Ruth Mary Weeks, Paseo High School, Kansas City. A discussion of correlation will follow. At the elementary section meeting, Miss Eloise Ramsey of Wayne University will offer the newly completed recreational reading list for elementary pupils.

Social events and sightseeing trips have been arranged for the delegates by the convention committee of the New England Association of Teachers of English, of which Samuel Thurber of Newtonville, Massachusetts, is chairman.

All who are interested in educational progress are invited to attend the meeting whether or not they are members of the English organization. Detailed information may be obtained from the National Council of Teachers of English, 211 West 68th Street, Chicago.

SCHOLASTIC ISSUES NEW EDITION

Scholastic, the American High School Weekly, has announced the publication of a separate Social Studies Edition of the magazine. An expanding subscription list has made possible the publication of two editions every week: a Regular Edition for teachers of English and those who combine or integrate English and the social subjects, and a Social Studies Edition for classes demanding a detailed study of social and economic problems. Both editions will carry an ample program of fully reported and thoroughly interpreted news. Each edition is the same size and magazine style as the old *Scholastic*, and there has been no increase in subscription rates.

Every week there will also be a special Teacher Edition of the magazine. This will carry all the material appearing in the chosen student edition, *plus* a special supplement presenting, in improved form, the

classroom helps, assignments, study guides, and news formerly published in High School. This new plan permits specialization along lines required in the modern school and provides news, teaching aids, and classroom material all in the same magazine.

BOOK WEEK NOV. 15 TO 21

"Books to Grow On—The Modern World for Young Readers" is to be the theme of the 1936 Book Week, November 15 to 21.

In keeping with this theme, school programs and book exhibits will emphasize the wide range of books now available which are concerned with contemporary themes and give children an excellent historical and factual background for living in the modern world. Critics have welcomed these new books which are unique in the history of children's reading, and the young readers themselves have greeted them eagerly, for in writing them authors have responded to the desire of the modern child for books that are closely related to the drama of life around him.

Transportation, science, history, geography, exploration, the arts, government, are presented in a straightforward, readable style without any shadow of condescension in the writing. In fiction, as well as in the books of information, changing trends in literature for children are visible.

These new books have a creative, continuing value through the school years, providing recreational reading which supplements the classroom work and gives boys and girls a desire to go on reading after school days are over.

A number of ideas for school projects and displays at Book Week time are given in a new pamphlet available from the Book Week Headquarters, National Association of Book Publishers, 347 Fifth Ave., New York, and there is a poster in four colors, designed by Jay M. Reibel, carrying the slogan for the Week. Fee for poster and booklet twenty-five cents.

THE READING TABLE

EXPERIMENTAL PEDAGOGY. By W. A. Lay. Translated by Adolf Weil and E. K. Schwartz. New York: The Prentice-Hall Co. Pp. 371. 1936. \$2.25.

An introduction of 125 pages, including valuable bibliographies of articles and books by Dr. Lay, his critics, and friends, was prepared by Dr. Paul Radosavljevich and set out clearly the philosophical bases of the treatise. Dr. Lay feels, for example, that psychological experimentation has isolated the child from actual life, so he holds that experimental education must seek to improve the whole school life of the child.

The book is important at this time as it gives the German point of view concerning both education through activity and integration in the curriculum. The history of educational research, the various methods in vogue, the concept of experimental education as such, pave the way for the detailed analysis of a considerable number of historic experiments and studies of a great variety of educational problems. The book should stimulate departments of education and individual teachers to emulate their friends in the natural sciences by subjecting more of their problems to definite research study. In a novel "peroration" at the end of the volume, Dr. Lay expresses the hope that experimental education will be the means of ushering a fellowship of nations to the end that the "brotherhood of man and the kingdom of heaven on earth" may be realized.

W. J. G.

ROMEO AND JULIET. By William Shakespeare. A Motion Picture Edition Illustrated with Photographs. New York: Random House. 1936. 290 pp. \$2.00.

Containing the first folio text as well as the actual shooting script of the new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production of Shakespeare's classic, this volume includes also articles by the late Irving Thalberg, producer; George Cukor, director; and Professor William Strunk, Jr., literary adviser. Designers,