

THE READING TABLE

INCENTIVES TO COMPOSITION: An Approach to Writing through Subject Stimulus. By Phyllis Robbins. (Harvard Studies in Education, Volume 27). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1936. 515 pp. \$2.75.

Not the fear of outdistancing someone, but rather the fear of holding someone back, Miss Robbins asserts, is what should keep teachers awake at night. And she continues, "To provide the active-minded with material on which to grow is in a special sense the task of the classes in English composition, for a subject when written upon becomes one's own as in no other way."

The author's method, first laid down in her earlier study, *An Approach to Composition Through Psychology*, is here applied in a host of exercises, lessons, "units"—as you will—which will arouse students' interest.

Designed for the abler students in the later years of secondary school, these exercises provide a great variety of topics; there are "setting-up exercises for the mind" (to widen the range of interest) and "setting-up exercises for taste and appreciation" (to develop a sense of beauty). In the first part are such various topics as weather-lore, apple trees, water, food, old-time superstitions, polar expeditions, Pasteur, Florence Nightingale; in the second part are gardens, glass, jewelry, weaving, lace, theatres old and new, the story of the column, the first artists.

Even so inadequate a summary as this, it is hoped, will show the rich service this book will provide to high school teachers of English composition in Virginia who are trying to adapt their work to the kind of integrated teaching advised in the new Virginia Core Curriculum.

But the extreme proponents of exclusively utilitarian composition activities will find pause in Miss Robbins's quotation from John Dewey: "The familiar and the near do not excite or repay thought on their own account, but only as they are adjusted to mastering the strange and remote," and in

her further explanation that "if we are to have any original thoughts, if we are to understand the far-away, and write on subjects outside our own narrow lives, we must base imagination on observed facts."

C. T. L.

LEADERSHIP OR DOMINATION. By Paul Pigors. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1935. Pp. 354. \$3.00.

Occasionally a worker in contemporary social science publishes a book which challenges educators to re-examine their philosophy and practices in its light. Such a contribution is Mr. Pigors's *Leadership or Domination*. His thesis on the nature of leadership gives an understanding of classroom groups and clarifies our goals, particularly in regard to that perennial problem, school discipline. His analysis of the responsibilities of a leader offers school supervisors and administrators a definite tool for evaluating their own work. (Blessed relief to pupils and teachers!) And his study of Christ as a leader integrates for us the work of civic leaders, church leaders, and teachers!

Don't read this book unless you want to think!

KATHERINE M. ANTHONY

MAN AT WORK: HIS INDUSTRIES. By Harold Rugg and Louise Krueger. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1937. Pp. 529. \$1.12.

This is Book Six of the Rugg Social Science Series for the Elementary School, *Man and His Changing Society*. Written clearly and with rich historical background, it acquaints the upper grade child with the opportunities and problems of our contemporary life. Admirably suited for use in the Virginia program.

K. M. A.

PERSONALITY ADJUSTMENT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD. Fifteenth Yearbook of the Department of Elementary School Principals. Washington, D. C. 1936. Pp. 672. \$2.00.

A comprehensive and authoritative treatment of behavior problems of every-day occurrence in normal children. An imposing

list of contributors including many names prominent in American clinical psychology as well as in elementary education. Clear and readable in style, sane and constructive in viewpoint, complete in glossary and bibliography, this yearbook is indispensable for all those engaged in guiding children's growth.

K. M. A.

BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR. By G. David Houston. New York: Globe Book Co. 1936. 290 pp. \$1.32.

This concisely-written book is designed as a self-instructor in the essentials of English grammar. The elements of grammar are classified and discussed under the various parts of speech.

For both instructor and student it is a good reference book in formal grammar.

A. B.

ERIK AND BRITTA. *The World's Children*. By Virginia Olcott. New York: Silver Burdett Co. 1937. Pp. 168. 84 cents.

There is delightful charm in this reader of third grade level, both in story and in illustration. It gives a pleasing picture of childhood life and adventure in Sweden, so expressed as to stimulate and hold interest. Pronunciation and explanation of the Swedish words used in the book are found at the back.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE

Miss Harriett Greve, dean of women at the University of Tennessee, was the speaker at the inauguration of the newly elected student government officers Wednesday, March 24. The oath of office was administered by Mary B. Cox, retiring president, to Virginia Blain, incoming head, who in turn swore in the other new officers, Ruth Mathews, vice-president; Isabel Russell, secretary-treasurer; and Dorothy Peyton, recorder-of-points.

The following night the new Y. W. C. A. officers were installed, the customary candlelight service being used. They are

Hilda Finney, president; Helen Hardy, vice-president; Wanda Spencer, treasurer; and Lafayette Carr, secretary. New Y. W. C. A. cabinet members for the 1937-38 session are: Catherine Falls, chairman of the Social Committee; Olivia Wooding, chairman of Alumnae and World Fellowship; Marie Walker, librarian and chairman of the Y. W. room committee; Sue Bowles and Vivian Weatherly, choir committee; Janet Miller, town girl representative; Elizabeth Rawles, pianist; Marlin Pence, *Breeze* reporter; Katherine Stone, chairman of the church committee; Eleanor Cole and Mary Ella Carr, co-chairmen of the art committee.

Tapping the queen and her court with shoulder bouquets in assembly, members of the athletic association announced to the student body the results of a secret ballot taken to determine the queen of the May and her attendants. Mary B. Cox, retiring president of the Student Government Association, will reign as queen, with Martha Way assisting as Maid of Honor. Those who will compose the court of honor are: Helen Shutters, Virginia Blain, Bertha Jenkins, Marjorie Fulton, Helen Willis, Anne Wood, Alice West, Virginia Turnes, Katherine Beale, Adelaide Howser, Betty Martin, and Annie Glenn Darden.

The May Day celebration this year will be a pageant depicting May Day customs of many ages.

Under the direction of Dr. Hans Kindler the National Symphony Orchestra presented a concert of great beauty in Wilson Hall Monday night, March 8.

The Siberian Singers gave a program of Russian music on the evening of March 19, this number serving as part of the special program of entertainment for home-coming alumnae.

Recent club elections have resulted in the following choices of officers for the 1937-38 session:

Sesame—Dorothy Slaven, president; Mary Hutzler, vice-president; Alice Mc-

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