

## XI

SOME INTERESTING BOOKS IN  
BRIEF REVIEW

THE SCIENCE OF HUMAN NATURE, by W. H. Pyle. New York: Silver, Burdett and Co. 1917. 229 pages.

This little text was definitely written for high school and normal school pupils, beginners in the study of psychology. The emphasis therefore is upon the educational implications and applications of the science, a final chapter being devoted to a brief statement of the applications to medicine, law, and business. The value of the text lies undoubtedly in the "Class Exercises" at the end of each chapter, which are numerous and practical, and in the brief illustrations interspersed on practically every page, making the subject concrete and throwing the student constantly back upon a study of himself and his fellow, the real laboratory of the student of psychology.

With the recognition of the need of such a treatise in view of the increasing tendency to introduce the subject to less mature students and because of the rapid advances in the science since the writing of most of this type of text, one is disappointed that the author takes considerable time of the reader in developing the fact that psychology is a science, and in giving proof of the element of causation therein. In the body of the text one finds that some topics are treated in detail with reference to school work, for example, instinct, habit, and memory, while others, such as feeling (and emotion), interest, and thinking are treated almost wholly from the point of view of scientific analysis. This is an important consideration because of the emphasis being laid in the newer education upon these latter elements. Finally, one looks in vain for the psychologist's effort to apply his own teaching that subject-matter should be presented not logically but from the standpoint of the learner, or psychologically. In this respect no gain has been made over previous texts, although the opportunity was particularly good.

W. J. G.

A SOURCE BOOK OF BIOLOGICAL NATURE-STUDY and A FIELD AND LABORATORY GUIDE IN BIOLOGICAL NATURE-STUDY, by Professor Elliot R. Downing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1919. 503 and 120 pages respectively. (\$3.00 and \$1.00).

These are two companion books treating in simple but thorough manner of our native *flora* and *fauna*. The descriptions of our common plants and animals are excellent and are well illustrated by 338 sketches and plates. The feature that most commends these books, however, is their emphasis on life processes and habits. The study of museum specimens is replaced by more interesting attention to the

life of living things. The analytical keys of the laboratory guide are very valuable. This in connection with its other features makes it the more useful of the two books.

The physical science side of nature-study has also been presented in a text and guide by the skillful hand of the same author.

These books should have a place on the shelves of every teacher of nature-study. They are up-to-date from an educational point of view and a study of them would be of great help to those teachers who have not kept up with modern methods.

G. W. C., JR.

HOW TO WRITE POETRY, by Ethel M. Colson. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1919. 157 pages. (\$1.25).

Why write poetry?—Well, why not? asks the author in this practical, wholesome, and inspirational little book. None can be harmed and all may be helped by a high-hearted treading of the poetic trail, even for a little way. Begin young. "Child-souls, child-races, all make poetry." But be firm in resisting "a premature eagerness to publish." Do not try poetry unless you have something to say and feel the "urge." But every one—nearly—does feel this.—Practise simple, long-tried verse-forms. *Vers libre* has real dangers for the beginner—for any thing short of genius, indeed.

Mrs. Colson would include in the poet's equipment every possible good thing of heaven and earth. But she would leave out a rhyming dictionary and poetic license. The latter name could well be expunged, unless a state license might be required in order to publish early efforts.

Poetic inspiration she treats with all reverence. "It is God that worketh in you." But technique is yours to toil for. "Ideas happen, whereas their embodiment must be made."

E. P. C.

TYPES OF GREAT LITERATURE, chosen by Percy Hazen Houston and John Kester Bonnel. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page and Co. 1920. 542 pages.

An excellent collection, carefully edited and handsomely printed, of masterpieces of English and American literature, with a few classics in translation, here presented as representative of the types of great literature, excluding the drama, the novel, and the short story, which it is impossible to present properly with excerpts. The editors have sought "to present selections that would command the enthusiasm of impatient youth," and have kept in mind the spirit of those interested less in letters than in life.

The contents are classified in nine groups, as follows: epic and romance, 100 pages; narrative poetry, 38 pages; the ballad, 13 pages; lyric poetry, 69 pages; history, 89 pages; biography, 48 pages; letters, 13 pages; orations, 37 pages; and essays, 134 pages.

C. T. L.

WOMEN OF ANCIENT ISRAEL, by Charlotte H. Adams. New York: National Board Y. W. C. A. The Woman's Press. Third edition 1916. 105 pages. (In board covers 25 cents; in cloth 70 cents).

This little book is intended for use in Bible study classes or Sunday schools. It treats of the life and work of six representative women of the Old Testament in a series of ten lessons, so arranged that they can be handled in a three-month period or extended over a much longer period if the interests and needs of the class demand. It has been adopted for use in a number of the Sunday school classes composed largely or wholly of Harrisonburg State Normal students for the fall term of the year 1920-21. It is believed it will prove far superior to a study of the international lessons, and give insight into the developing life and religion of the Jewish people and the position of women in the ancient world.

The strength of the book lies in its wealth of suggestive questions and illustrations. The strong and well-equipped teacher will find it no less interesting and useful as a guide than the less well-prepared teacher. However, at all times it is based on the Old Testament story and marginal references to the Bible are found on every page. The concluding chapter on the Hebrew ideal of womanhood is a strong presentation of those ideals which should guide the young woman of today in shaping her own character.

W. J. G.

APT ILLUSTRATIONS FOR PUBLIC ADDRESSES, by A. Bernard Webber. New York: George H. Doran Co. 1920. 225 pages. (\$1.50).

There can never be too many books of fresh original illustration for the use of public speakers.

The minister, the superintendent and the layman will find this new collection of short stories and incidents a most acceptable and usable aid in preparing talks, speeches and addresses. The author has shown a fine discrimination in his selection. The humorous and pathetic, the highly dramatic and the homely incident are all represented and all are carefully classified under subjects for quick and easy selection.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, by Oscar T. Corson. New York: American Book Co. 1920. 283 pages.

This book contains two splendid sections entitled School Sentiment and Co-operation. They cover the most valuable half of the book. The author has treated these topics in an original and readable manner. Each contains many illustrations from school life. Each teems with practical helps. The style is simple and attractive. The author conforms to every teacher's experience and does not soar in the realms of pedagogical theory beyond the understanding of many teachers. Every

teacher needs this book and will find it full of inspiration. It will never get old. It is one of the few books on education tired teachers can read with pleasure at the end of a hard day.

C. K. H.

HOUSEHOLD PHYSICS, by C. H. Brechner. New York: Allyn and Bacon. 1920. 304 pages. (\$1.40).

This is a thoroughly modern physics, applying the principles in such a way as primarily to interest girls, by using references and examples with which they are familiar. The topics are carefully explained and these explanations are illustrated by a wealth of line drawings and photographs. Beginning with the subject of heat as an easier and more pleasing aspect of physics, as well as one that connects the study with the student's past experiences, the subjects, one after the other, are presented in sufficient fullness, clearness, and attractiveness to result in making the year's study in this subject rich in pleasing memories and productive of an intelligent attitude towards the student's surroundings for a life time. While the author has avoided making the subject a mathematical bugbear, yet he has not omitted any great principle that may legitimately find a place in an elementary text.

J. C. J.

PHYSICS, by Tower, Smith, Turton, and Cope. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1920. 492 pages. (\$1.35).

The recommendations and conclusions reached by the "New Movement in the Teaching of Physics" have been incorporated into this book as a whole. Some of the special features of the text may be briefly summarized as follows:

(a) *Simplicity of presentation* is obvious in the methods of attack, as likewise in the illustrations and examples employed in developing subjects.

(b) The text is divided into reasonable sections, each containing material enough for one recitation. *There are seventy-seven such divisions.*

(c) Each of these sections is summarized by a list of important topics which point out to the student the principles and subject matter requiring most careful attention.

(d) The problems and practical exercises emphasize *physical principles as distinguished from mathematical training.*

The text is an excellent presentation of the fundamental principles of physics, well illustrated and abundantly supplied with all the devices to make it a thoroughly teachable book. It is inspirational, both in the manner of handling the subject matter and in the mechanical make-up.

J. C. J.