

The New—in Review

Alice Miel, Editor

NUMBER ONE responsibility of educators in this period may well be helping to improve intercultural relations in America. A recent contribution of the Bureau for Intercultural Education on this problem is *Probing Our Prejudices* by Hortense Powdermaker (Harper, 1944, 65 cents in paper). Although designed as a unit for high school students, its simple and clear exposition of the way attitudes toward other people are formed makes this small book a valuable and interesting piece of material to use with adults as well. Suggested activities and questions for discussion, prepared by Helen F. Storen, increase the usefulness of the unit.

Another source of help in analyzing the problem of prejudice is *ABC's of Scapegoating*, a small monograph developed under the direction of Gordon Allport and H. A. Murray (available from the Central YMCA College, 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, for 25 cents). The treatment of the psychological principles involved is at the adult level. There are several references to practices in schools through which teachers unwittingly reinforce prejudice.

From Harvard comes a third bit of helpful material *The Curriculum As an Integrating Force for Ethnic Variations* by Idabelle Yeiser. This pamphlet may be obtained from the Committee on Publications, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass. Price 25 cents.

AMERICAN NEGROES, their role in the current war and in the development of this country, are depicted dramatically and effectively in *Negro Soldier*, the documentary film that has received such wide acclaim in commercial theaters. The film is now available to schools in 16 mm, four reels, sound, for a \$2 service charge.

Other new films that may be recommended for teachers and other adults are:

Before They Are Six, produced by the

National Film Board of Canada to show the operation of low-cost day nurseries in that country (two reels, sound, \$3 a day). *Child Welfare in Sweden*, giving a picture of the Swedish government's intelligent program of free clinics, housing, summer camps, and play facilities for children of all ages (one reel, sound, \$1.50 a day).

Prices Unlimited, a presentation of what would happen to prices if rationing were not in operation (one reel, sound, 50-cent service charge).

As Our Boyhood Is, problems and progress in rural education among Southern Negroes with one forward-looking school program described at length (two reels, sound, \$3 a day).

Defense Against Invasion, a Disney animated cartoon on the importance of vaccination (one reel, sound, color, 50-cent service charge).

All of these films may be obtained from New York University Film Library, 71 Washington Square South, New York 12, if not available from other sources.

EXPLANATORY NOTES on the Vassar series of films for study of normal personality development have been prepared by Mary S. Fisher and Lawrence J. Stone and are available for 10 cents from New York University Film Library. Among other things, *Explanatory Notes* contains brief discussions of projective methods and of play therapy. A study guide to the film *Finger Painting* may be purchased for 50 cents.

IF TEACHER education in service as well as pre-service fails to improve substantially in the next decade, it will not be the fault of the Commission on Teacher Education which now has ready for distribution two fat volumes, full of varied suggestions for progress in that important field and illustrated by thrilling narratives of the experiences of the

many schools and colleges that cooperated in the five-year study just closing. Neither of the volumes, *Teacher Education in Service* by Charles E. Prall and C. Leslie Cushman nor *Evaluation in Teacher Education* by Maurice E. Troyer and C. Robert Pace, could have been as rich a source of help for others seeking to improve the education of teachers had the Commission not chosen "to abide by the results of a policy of encouraging each school system to work out its own plans and practices, to follow its own convictions, and to proceed in the light of its own needs and resources."

The volume on in-service education of teachers relates different experiences with planning bodies, school policies councils, and study groups. It includes superb chapters on the individual school approach to curriculum development and on personnel study as a means of improving staff relations. Cooperation among school systems and a countywide study of community problems are also described. All the accounts are interspersed with searching analyses, pointed comments, and significant conclusions, which are then brought together in the tenth chapter "Lessons from the Cooperative Study of Teacher Education."

The volume on evaluation gives concrete illustrations of good evaluative practice in teacher education. It begins with initial selection of students, continues through orientation and guidance of prospective teachers, general education, professional education, student-teaching and follow-up of graduates, and concludes with evaluation at the in-service level. In addition, the volume has value for its mature and common-sense view of the process of evaluation as an integral part of a total educational program. "It is best," the authors write, "not to conceive of evaluation as a sequence of steps each of which must be completed before the next is attempted. Many of the tasks that are involved in an evaluation can be carried forward together. Goals may be suggested and become clarified through attacking specific problems as well as through direct discussion of objectives." The writers even suggest that the insights gained from local endeavor may more than balance whatever lack of measuring precision may result from failure to use devices made by experts. The discussion of self-evaluation,

largely in Chapter III, is especially thorough.

If the reports yet to come from the Commission are of the quality of these two which were published in early summer, we have something to anticipate with pleasure. Each volume sells for \$3. Order from the American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C.

A FURTHER OFFERING in the field of teacher education is a book by Herman L. Offner entitled *Administrative Procedures for Changing Curriculum Patterns in Selected State Teachers Colleges* (Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1944, \$2.10). From a study of the ways in which curricula have been made in the past for the state teachers colleges of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and from an examination of the literature in the field, the author recommends that college administrators prepare faculty members for participation in curriculum-making; that students and representative public school teachers and administrators be brought into the program for developing curricula; and that administrative procedures for changing curriculum patterns be carefully evaluated every five years.

The study is limited by the fact the curriculum is defined as a group of courses arranged sequentially into a pattern or program of studies. However, the author's recommendations would still be appropriate were curriculum to be more broadly defined.

TIMELY IN its conception is "Lend-Lease," the first in the 1944-45 series of illustrated study units published by *Building America* (2 West Forty-fifth Street, New York 19, 30 cents). In addition to an excellent factual account of how lend-lease began, how specifically it has served in the Battle of Britain and in Africa and the Middle East, how it has aided the Soviet forces, Australia and New Zealand, China, India, and many smaller nations, there are included many little publicized facts about reverse lend-lease. An especially valuable feature is the review of the public debate that has surrounded lend-lease at every step—a priceless example of the way in which public opinion operates in a democracy. As usual, the *Building America* unit leaves the reader with an important subject

for speculation, this time the contribution to a "victory over war" which would be rendered if "we Americans and other people of the world (would) be willing to cooperate with the same patience and understanding of our mutual problems for a world of peace and prosperity as we did in pooling ideas, fighting forces, supplies and services to bring victory that made world peace possible again."

PROBLEMS IN American Life, the series of units sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies and the National Association of Secondary-School Principals (1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.) has three new titles: *The American Standard of Living*, Unit No. 19 with the subtitle "Earning and Spending Our Money"; *The American Way of Business*, Unit No. 20 subtitled "The Role of Government in a System of Free Enterprise"; and *Urban and Rural Living*, Unit No. 21 subtitled "Planning Post-War Ways of Life for American Youth." Each unit, containing an analysis of the problem together with teaching aids, sells for 30 cents.

I ENJOYED very much *Young Heroes of the War* beginning with Knut, the boy from Norway in a hurry to grow up, and ending with the story of Kolka and Anushka, the children from Russia. I thought the story of Nada, the Yugoslavian girl, was very good. It appealed to me I think because I am a girl and like to read stories of heroines like Nada. I think all ages would enjoy this book because it contains stories of children of all ages. There is a story of a 6-year-old Chinese boy who carried his sister through Japanese-held territory when both his mother and father had been killed there. I hope other boys and girls enjoy the book as much as I did.—*Young Heroes of the War* by Joseph Gollomb and Alice Taylor (Vanguard Press, 1943, \$2.50) is reviewed by Frances Gann, grade six, Springfield, Mo.

ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL with books for very young children is William R. Scott, Inc., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, whose new fall numbers include *Here Comes Daddy* by Winifred Milius (\$1), *This Is the Milk That Jack Drank* by Mr. Scott with paint-

ings by Charles G. Shaw (\$1.25), and *Timid Timothy, the Kitten Who Learned To Be Brave* by Gweneira Williams, illustrated by Leonard Weisgard (\$1.25).

For older youngsters the *Children's Picture Cook Book* will furnish incentive and aid in experimenting with cakes, peanut brittle, sherbet, hot dogs, and many other foods that children like. Says the book jacket, "Picture by picture, step by step, every single detail of the cooking process is clearly shown. From 'Before You Begin' . . . through 'You Will Need' . . . to 'This Will Taste Good With' . . . nothing is left to words alone that a picture can help to explain."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS for Teaching, Hollis L. Caswell, editor, offers as Number 7 in its series *Exploring Literature with Children in the Elementary School* by Jean Betzner (Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, 1943, 60 cents). Bringing to the writing of this small book her extensive knowledge of the field of children's literature and her sensitiveness to the reactions of children, Miss Betzner has succeeded in helping the reader to see literature as one of the arts deserving an important place in the curriculum and has offered the kind of aid a teacher needs in allowing literature to render its proper service to childhood. No one can come away from a reading of this book believing that exploring literature with children means merely reading aloud fifteen minutes daily.

REPRODUCTIONS of the beautiful Covarrubias picture map murals to be found in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, are available from that institution at \$9.65 for the set of six. Purchased singly, the following maps come at \$2 each: "The Economy of the Pacific," "Fauna and Flora of the Pacific," "Art Forms of the Pacific Area," and "Peoples of the Pacific." The remaining maps, slightly smaller, sell at \$1.50 each: "Native Means of Transportation in the Pacific Area" and "Native Dwellings in the Pacific."

Although the Pacific area is central in these maps, the entire continents of Asia and North and South America are included in every case. The coloring in the reproductions is excellent.

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