

The New—in Review

Sara M. Krentzman, Editor

PORTRAITS OF THE NATIONS is the title of a series of books for boys and girls published by J. B. Lippincott Company. Newest addition to the series is *The Land and People of India* by Manorama R. Modak. (Philadelphia, Lippincott, \$2). Mrs. Modak is an American who served as principal of a girls' high school in India, married an Indian prominent in civic and educational work, and worked with him in attempting to improve conditions in India. The Modaks have been in America the past months, lecturing with the East-West Association.

Young people will gain from this book a better understanding of India's aspirations to be a democratic nation. In clear and simple language and many interesting photographs India's civilization is described from the Indian citizen's point of view. Boys and girls who read this book will have a better understanding of India's culture and her problems.

Other books in the series, each written by an authority, give a similar picture of the following countries: China, Russia, The Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, and France. In preparation are *The Land and People of Brazil*, *The Island of the English People*, and *The Land and People of Greece*. Publications like these can do much to create a better understanding of the other countries in the world by American boys and girls. All of these books are available from J. B. Lippincott Company.

COOPERATIVE PLANNING produced the publication *Building a Better Southern Region Through Education; A Study in State and Regional Cooperation*. Approximately 155 persons, representing the fourteen states in the Southern Region participated in preparing this report of a study made at the Southern States Work Conference on School Administrative Problems, held in Daytona Beach, Fla., in the summer of 1944. The book is edited by Edgar L. Morphet, with the assistance of the coordinators, chairmen, and executive committee for the conference.

It may be purchased directly from Dr. Morphet, director of administration and finance, Florida State Department of Education, Tallahassee, for \$1.50.

In the foreword the statement is made that the participants "believe . . . that the materials prepared by the 1944 Work-Conference represent the first attempt by a large group of educational leaders from an entire region to view the organization and administration of education in terms of its relation to the resources of the region and the potential development of those resources." Twenty-eight committees were responsible for preparing the materials compiled in the final publication. These committees kept in mind the following questions which must be answered if education in the South is to be improved:

(1) What readjustments should be made in the educational organization, program, and procedures in the states in the Southern Region so that the people of the South may be prepared to utilize more effectively the resources of the Region for their own benefit and that of the nation?

(2) What steps should be taken to plan and to put into operation the adjustments which are needed in the school program in order to assure that the schools will make their maximum contributions to the proper development of the Region?

While this book will be of particular value to those interested in improving education in the South, it will also serve as a challenge to educators in other regions to study their own problems.

KWOK MING was reared in China, but he was an American because his parents were American citizens. The story of his experiences in China and later in San Francisco is valuable in helping young people understand our citizens of Chinese background. *Two Lands For Ming* (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, \$2) is written by Virginia Fowler and Stanley Chin and illustrated by Stanley Chin.

BOOKS FOR TIRED EYES, a book list compiled by Charlotte Mason and published by the American Library Association in 1940, suggests books printed in twelve point or larger type, clear and well spaced, and on glazed paper. This list has proved helpful to those interested in choosing books for people with limited vision. Equally helpful will be the additions to this list, "Some Recent Books for Tired Eyes," also compiled by Miss Mason and published in the August 1, 1945, issue of *The Booklist*. This issue is available from the American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill., for 25 cents. A yearly subscription to *The Booklist* is \$3.

BUILDING AMERICA, the study units published monthly from October through May under the sponsorship of the Department of Supervision and Curriculum Development, continues to meet the need in schools for factual, illustrated studies of modern problems. Two of the most recent issues are entitled *Our Water Resources* and *Family Life*.

Our Water Resources presents the problem of the proper use and control of water resources in America. Photographs, maps, and charts describe the problem very graphically and contribute to the readability of the publication. The last section, "Deciding About Tomorrow," challenges young people to think together about using our water supply more intelligently in the future. The bibliography at the end suggests books, periodicals, organizations, and films that will be helpful in studying this problem in schools.

Family Life presents in a similar manner the question of the value of the family institution in present-day society. The patterns of family living in other countries are discussed as a beginning and stimulate better understanding of other peoples as well as clearer interpretation of our own family problems in America. Photographs, reproductions of pictures from the New York Public Library picture collection, graphs, sketches, and charts enliven the written text. An excellent bibliography is appended.

The issues of *Building America* are valuable for present use and become a most valuable addition to the social studies collection of the school library. Schools may subscribe for them from DSCD, 1201 Sixteenth Street,

N.W., Washington 6, D. C., for \$2.25 for a set of eight or for 30 cents a copy. Each of the current numbers lists back issues which are available either in sets or as single copies.

THE SOCIAL IMAGINATION of fifty young citizens of Floodwood, Minn., was stimulated in an experiment in "Education for the Future," carried on for four and one-half months through a grant from the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota. The boys and girls in this small rural school met with their teachers and superintendent and decided to concentrate on a study of the future, instead of turning their complete efforts toward an evaluation of the past. It was their aim to try to answer the question: *What kind of society do we as young citizens want to build for tomorrow?*

This experiment is told in detail by Theodore Brameld in *Design for America* (New York, Hinds, Hayden, and Eldredge, Inc., \$2). The introduction gives in readable style the purpose and plan of the project, techniques employed, materials used, and a brief evaluation of the results of the experiment. Other sections of the book discuss motivation and orientation, specific plans and materials used in the economic-political area, art and science, and education and human relations. Descriptions given are so definite that a day-by-day plan is included.

Educators interested in new methods of teaching will find this book interesting. It is assumed that no one would attempt to duplicate the detailed plans worked out for the Floodwood school in another situation, but that these plans might be suggestive to those interested in educational experimentation.

A FILM CATALOG, *U. S. Government Motion Pictures and Film Strips*, is available without cost from the Division of Visual Aids, U. S. Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C.

STORY-TELLING through phonograph records has been recognized as a help to busy teachers. The Division for Children and Young People of the American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill., is making available two recordings of traditional tales told by Mrs. Thorne-Thomsen, one of the world's most famous story-tellers. Selected for telling were the

stories of Gudbrand, "The Sleeping Beauty," Baldur, and "Tales from the Volsunga Saga." The records will carry a free copyright for use on the radio, in homes, libraries, and schools. Complete information and price may be obtained from the American Library Association.

SCRIPT-OF-THE-MONTH is a new service for discussion groups available through the courtesy of *The American Mercury*. Scripts consisting of a complete fifteen-minute program that may be used on or off the air will be issued monthly by the magazine. Each script will be based on current news articles appearing in *The American Mercury*.

Gretta Baker, instructor in radio techniques at New York University, writes the programs and will act as consultant to groups throughout the country which plan to broadcast the script. Interested groups should write to Miss Baker at *The American Mercury*.

Each script will take the form of a roundtable discussion for four participants, with an introduction and conclusion by the announcer. The basic part of the broadcast is given, but speakers are encouraged to "ad lib" whenever possible. A release from the "Script-of-the-Month" suggests that the material will prove useful for actual radio broadcasts, as a school broadcast over a public address system, for assembly programs, club meetings, or as part of the regular classroom work. Free copies of the script may be obtained by writing to Radio Department, *The American Mercury*, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

BOOKS BRING ADVENTURE, the Junior Leagues of America's series of fifteen-minute transcriptions of book dramatizations, has been put on twelve-inch records for use on regular phonograph equipment. This is good news for schools, for the records will prove successful in motivating children to read worthwhile and interesting books. These records may be ordered singly or in series from Gloria Chandler, Junior Leagues of America, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York 22, N. Y.

The success of the first series has caused the organization to decide to produce a second series, dramatizations of regional books for children. Announcement will soon be made of the books chosen for the transcriptions. The original series was awarded first prize at the Ninth Annual Exhibition of the Institute for Education by Radio sponsored by Ohio University.

ONE IN A SERIES of teaching aids being published by the Association for Childhood Education is *Portfolio for Primary Teachers*, an attractive folder containing practical helps for teachers of the six-to-eights. The twelve leaflets in this portfolio deal with such everyday problems as "What to Expect of the Six-to-Eights," "Starting First Grade Reading," "When Children and Teachers Work Together," "Grouping Can Foster Growth," "Recording and Reporting Children's Growth," and "The Meaning of Discipline." Each leaflet includes a bibliography of other sources of reading on the topics discussed. This portfolio may be ordered for 50 cents from ACE, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

TALES FROM FAR AND NEAR is the title of the national hookup program of the CBS American School of the air which dramatizes children's books each week. The program is presented weekly on Fridays from 5

to 5:30 p. m., EST. The following schedule of books to be presented could be made into an attractive poster to encourage boys and girls to listen in for an interesting and worthwhile program.

Date	Title	Author	Publisher
Nov. 9	The New Road	Pearl Buck	Heath
Nov. 16	Q Boat	F. W. Mason	Lippincott
Nov. 23	Mayflower Boy	S. Young	Farrar
Nov. 30	In Desert and Wilderness	H. Sienkiewicz	Little
Dec. 7	Pecos Bill	J. C. Bowman	Whitman
Dec. 14	Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame	Holiday
Dec. 21	Pickwick Papers	Charles Dickens	Popular editions
Dec. 28	Taming of the Shrew	William Shakespeare	Popular editions

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