

The New—in Review

Sara M. Krentzman, Editor

PROBLEMS IN THE IMPROVEMENT of Reading is the title of a new book by Constance McCullough, Ruth Strang, and Arthur Traxler. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1946, \$3.50). The purpose of this book is to offer a practical evaluation of reading problems to administrators, supervisors, and teachers. The topics discussed cover a wide variety of common reading situations which teachers encounter in the public schools. By reading carefully, any teacher or school official should be able to evaluate reading difficulties of children and then present the reading activity in a more meaningful learning situation. Many helpful suggestions have been made to aid teachers in setting up corrective and remedial procedures.

The book is well indexed and each chapter has an adequate reference list for individual and study group purposes. Some chapters seem to end more abruptly than others. This situation could be improved by making a brief summary for each chapter. There is some question about the value of the study-exercise material presented in appendices "C," "D," and "E."

In spite of the mentioned weaknesses this book should be found in public and professional libraries.—DR. HUGH L. WASKOM, Prof. of Psychology and Director of Psychological Clinic, Florida State College for Women.

THE UNITED NATIONS NEWS, a monthly publication of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, has as its aim the promotion of information concerning the meetings of the United Nations. The subscriptions cost is \$2 a year for twelve issues, and \$1 a year for undergraduate students. (Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 45 East Sixty-fifth Street, New York 21, N. Y.)

Each month the *News* presents several articles about the chief activities of the

United Nations and others are listed in the department, "Notes of the Month." "People in the News" is devoted to personality sketches of the leading figures at the conference. Frequently suggested lists for further reading are included.

This publication offers an opportunity to every citizen to keep up with world events.

TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH, by George Thorman, is Pamphlet No. 120 in the series of popular, factual, ten-cent pamphlets published by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., nonprofit educational organization now located in new offices at 22 East Thirty-eighth street, New York 16, N. Y. It was prepared in cooperation with the National Mental Health Foundation and has been carefully checked by a number of the country's leading psychiatrists. This publication is part of the effort to educate the American public to a sound and sympathetic approach toward mental illness and to aid in its early recognition and treatment. It could be very valuable to supervisors and administrators in helping them develop a better understanding of teachers' problems and to teachers as a means of fostering better self-understanding.

PLANNING AND PRODUCING Posters is the title of John DeLemos' book which presents the essentials of making effective posters. (School Arts Magazine, 1611 Printers Bldg., Worcester 8, Mass., \$2.75.) Discussions of lettering, air-brush technique, value, silhouette, balance of light and dark, and many other aspects of poster making are given.

IF YOU DID NOT hear the series of forums on the subject, "The Influence of Radio, Motion Pictures and Comics On

Children," broadcast last April on the Mutual network, you should by all means write for a complete transcript of the series. (Mutual Broadcasting Company, 1440 Broadway, New York City.) The discussants on the program were authorities who approached the problem from many angles.

TEACHING AIDS FOR TEACHERS, a list of materials available from federal agencies and from professional and non-commercial groups, may be secured from the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. This is a reprint of an article which first appeared in *School Life*.

SCHOOL BUILDING problems are very real for the many educators actively engaged at the moment in expansion programs. There is a conspicuous lack of good material in this field, and it is interesting to note that many school groups are compiling and publishing the results of their planning efforts.

The proceedings of the Conference on School Building Planning and Related Problems, held at Indiana University in February, 1946, offer very helpful suggestions. The publication is available for 50 cents from the Indiana University Bookstore, Bloomington, Indiana. It includes the papers presented at the conference, all of which are interesting and practical.

THE COUNTRY along the Santa Fe Railway System has been filmed by the Santa Fe System. Education groups may secure these 16 mm. films on a free loan basis by writing to The Film Bureau, Santa Fe System Lines, 302 Railway Exchange, 80 East Jackson, Chicago 4, Ill. The bureau will send on request a folder describing the different films.

CONTEMPORARY LIFE in thirty countries throughout the world is the subject of a series of broadcasts given over the Columbia network each Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m., EST. The series, called "World Neighbors," is scheduled to continue through April 21, 1947.

EDUCATION IN HOME LIVING for the elementary school is presented in a helpful manner by Elizabeth Stevenson in *Home and Family Life Education in Elementary Schools* (New York: Wiley, 1946, \$2.75). This is a book written for the teacher, supervisor, school administrator, and others concerned with the education of the elementary school child.

The book is divided into two parts. In part one, the author presents an overall view of the nature of personal and family living today, children's new responsibilities, changing concepts of education and the role of the school in personal and family living in community life. Consideration is given to certain fundamental needs of all children and to the methods of searching out and meeting those peculiar to each child.

The author illustrates how homes can be used as practical laboratories in relating subject matter to the problem-solving situations that home living provides. The author believes that children are not interested in matters too far removed from their own lives. Therefore, the situations in their daily living provide the most realistic problem-solving situations.

In part two, such everyday matters as foods for pleasure, health, and sociability; learning more about radio; the value of children's playthings; child care; care of the convalescent; and housing and home improvement are discussed.

The author uses pictures gathered from over the country of real in-school and out-of-school experiences as well as specific examples of classroom experiences to illustrate ways in which the content of the school subjects may be made more realistic by relating them to the child's life situations.

At the end of each chapter is a comprehensive list of recommended reading which further enhances the reader's concept which is brought out in this book. In the appendix the author relates problems and solutions from actual school situations and gives some teaching aids and a bibliography.

Due to the growing interest in home and

family life education in the elementary school this is a very timely book. It should be a useful book to teachers in the field of elementary education as well as to home economics teachers on the high school level.—BOLETHA FROJEN, state supervisor, Home Economics Education, Florida State College for Women.

CREATIVE PLAY and self-expression activities are an important phase of any leisure time program. Anna May Jones offers practical suggestions to all those interested in directing leisure activities for children and young people in her book, *Leisure Time Education: A Handbook of Creative Activities for Teachers and Group Leaders*. (New York: Harper and Bros., 1946, \$2.75.)

The book presents many ideas for ready use and describes phases of recreational activity carried on in some two hundred school and community centers in the United States. Miss Jones, as educational and vocational counselor for the New York City Public Schools, has had varied experiences and training which qualify her to write this volume.

Suggestions are given in such fields as: sports, dramatics, radio, motion pictures, travel, sightseeing activities, crafts and shopwork; fine arts, music; reading, social activities, camping, scouting, community planning, after-school programs, health education. For each of these fields there is an annotated bibliography which suggests excellent materials.

PICTURE MAPS are useful as wall or bulletin board decorations in schools and libraries and may be valuable for instructional purposes. Among the most colorful and attractive available for motivating interest in reading are the Bowker Picture Maps (R. R. Bowker Co., 62 West Forty-fifth St., N. Y. 19, \$1.50 each). There are five new titles in the series: *The Book-lover's Map of the British Isles*; *Map of Great Adventures*; *Battle Map of History and Story*; *The World in Story Books*;

and *A Map of the Americas*. They are printed in six colors and present much detailed information that is interesting and accurate.

TO ENCOURAGE student ownership of good books, a new book club for children, Young Folks Book Club, has been initiated. The sponsors of the project plan to supply children with periodic selections of reasonable priced books suitable for supplementary reading. The selections are to be made by children, under the direction of recognized reading authorities. Selection groups have been designated in three sections of the country, under the leadership of the following well-known educators: Dorothy K. Cadwallader, principal, Robbins School, Trenton, N. J.; Mrs. Dorothy Oldendorf, assistant supt. of Schools, Wilmette, Ill.; and Jennie Wahlert, principal, Jackson School, St. Louis, Mo. These educators plan for hundreds of school children to read many books and work with them as they choose the best. In this manner, 2 books are chosen for the Kindergarten—Grade 3 level, and 2 for the 4-6 grade level.

Each school participating will receive the four selections, so that the children can see them and decide which they will purchase. Each student joining the club will be required to buy four books during the year. The books are offered the children at an average saving of 20 per cent of the regular retail price. The first selections give some indication of the quality of the program: For the younger group, *Three Gay Tales From Grimm*, Wanda Gag, translator, and *Peter Churchmouse*, written and illustrated by Margot Austin; for the older group, *The Moffats*, by Eleanor Estes, and *The Mystery of the Secret Drawer* by Helen Fuller Orton. The sample set of books becomes the property of the school library if the total number of books ordered from the selection is twenty-five or more. Complete details are available from The Young Folks Book Club, 106 Beekman Street, New York, 7.



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