

# The New—in Review

Amo DeBernardis

*During the 1948-49 publication year Amo DeBernardis, director, Instructional Materials, Portland public schools, will be editor of this monthly department. Materials of instruction for review in these pages (books, pamphlets, films, records, etc.) may be sent to Mr. DeBernardis at 631 Northeast Clackamas Street, Department of Audio-Visual Education, Portland 8, Oregon. He, as editor, will retain the privilege of selecting for review those of particular significance to the readers of EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP.*

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS.** The teachers interested in a good list of books for young people should get a copy of *Children's Books, Too Good to Miss*, published by the Press of Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, price 75 cents. Criteria which determined whether a book would be included were: (1) Is the book good literature? (2) Does the book make a significant contribution to the child's wisdom, or merriment, or appreciation of duty? (3) Does the book have child appeal? Books are listed in groups for children under 6, for 6-7-8-year-olds, for 9-10-11-year-olds, and for 12-13-year-olds.

**ATOMIC VISION.** No one can escape the influence of the development of atomic power. The role of the school in developing students who have an adequate understanding and perspective of this new force cannot be minimized or overlooked. *Operation Atomic Vision*, published by the National Association of Secondary School Principals of the NEA, is a must for all secondary schools. Although it is written for high school students, it contains information which all teachers should read and digest. The book contains five chapters packed full of information and facts concerning atomic energy and how we can develop a better understanding of its uses. A discussion of the potentials of atomic energy for building a new world or destroying it should challenge the reader to reflection. "Your stake is clear: it is young people who have the most to gain or to lose in this crisis. There are three steps toward assuming your respon-

sibility in this area: (1) become informed; (2) share your information—talk, discuss, and pass the materials around where they will do the most good; and (3) develop your leadership function—use your initiative; get to know the key people; and get them moving, too."

Although this statement is aimed at high school students, we all agree that we can use this same philosophy in terms of our own thinking and action. A detailed plan for organizing an effective program for carrying out the above philosophy is discussed. Considerable space is devoted to exploring the promises and hazards in atomic energy. Chapter five is devoted to explaining the new vocabulary which the atomic age has brought to popular use. An annotated bibliography of books, films, pamphlets, and documents is included in chapter six. Single copies of this book sell for 60 cents. Discounts are available on quantity orders.

**ELEMENTS OF ART.** Eight new color filmstrips have been released by the Jam Handy Organization, 2821 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit 11, Michigan. Titles in this series include Lines, Shapes, More Shapes, Solid Shapes, Using Color, Color Proportion, and Painting a Picture. The materials presented in each of these filmstrips are graphic, simple, and to the point. Art, Photography, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts Teachers will find these films useful.

**WHAT IS CHINA?** It is a recent film released by The Motion Picture Associa-

tion, 1600 Eye Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. This film gives a good overview of the Republic of China. Geography, history, peoples, and the development and changes in China are emphasized. Interesting scenes of unskilled laborers, farmers, fishermen, and skilled artisans are included. For information on availability of this film write The Motion Picture Association, Educational Service Department.

**A COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN A SPANISH SPEAKING VILLAGE**, published by the University of New Mexico Press, is an interesting account of a community school built around the needs of the students in the town of Nambe, New Mexico. In this volume one can read the diary of a school which had a definite influence on not only the children but the adults as well. One is impressed by the realistic program that the teachers and the parents were able to develop by working cooperatively together. Many helpful suggestions for improving the school curriculum can be gained from careful reading and analysis of this book.

**THE ADJUSTMENT OF READING MATERIALS TO INDIVIDUAL LEVELS AND LEARNING RATES**, by Harriett Carmody, reading consultant of the Pullman, Washington, public schools, is a bulletin for teachers interested in improving the reading habits of children. Carmody points out that, "One of the basic principles essential to successful growth in reading is the guarantee that reading materials will be so effectively adjusted to individual achievement levels and rates of learning that satisfactory growth for every child will be insured." Many helpful suggestions are given on how to develop a successful program of reading, how to adjust materials to rates of learning, and how to determine the sequential difficulties of readers. The most commonly used readers in the first six grades are listed in order of their difficulty as indicated by children's actual reading performance. Copies may be obtained from the School of Education, State College of Washington, Pullman, for 50 cents.

**THE AUDIO-VISUAL WAY**, is the title of a new publication by the State Department of Education in Florida. The bulletin was prepared by a committee of Florida educators after considerable study and work. The work was coordinated by Sara Krentzman of Florida State University and the State Department of Education. Charles Hoban, associate professor of Audio-Visual Materials, at Florida State University served as consultant. The bulletin contains many helpful suggestions on the selection, procurement, care, and utilization of audio-visual materials. The section on administration and organization will be helpful to those interested in organizing audio-visual programs. Minimum requirements of a program, classification, distribution, room darkening, maintenance, and repair are discussed. Clever illustrations and pictures coupled with an interesting style make this book enjoyable reading as well as giving the reader a good overview of the audio-visual program. Copies of this bulletin may be secured from the State Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida, for thirty-five cents a copy.

**GROUP DISCUSSION TECHNIQUES**. All administrators and teachers are confronted with the problems of conducting group discussions. The skills and techniques of group leadership have been expanded greatly in the past few years. *It Pays to Talk It Over*, a 48-page handbook, published by the National Institute of Social Relations, Inc., 1244 Twentieth St. N. W., Washington 6, D. C., is especially designed for discussion leaders, program chairmen, and other persons interested in carrying on forum type programs. Many helpful suggestions as to organization of materials, getting the discussion started, keeping it going, concluding, and evaluating the discussion are included. A sample check list for group leaders is provided. The section on audio-visual aids is concise and to the point. Discussion leaders will find many suggestions for use of audio-visual aids. Individual copies may be ordered for 40 cents, and quantity discounts are available.

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