

The New—in Review

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Your Reviewer Wonders. Writing reviews of books is like talking over the radio. You talk into a microphone and you wonder how many people actually heard what you had to say, or cared. This is only the second time the present reviewer has prepared this column and he, like the radio commentator, wonders if people read the stuff—and if they do, is it what they want? These questions come to mind as the editor sits at the typewriter “pecking” out this column. Are the reviews too short? Should the reviews be more critical? Should experts in certain areas be asked to write reviews of books in their area? Should material other than books be reviewed? Do you consider the reviews helpful? Your answers to these questions, and any other suggestions you may have to improve the column, will be appreciated. Take a few minutes now and drop us a line.

READING PROBLEMS. *The Teaching of Reading in the Elementary School*, by Paul McKee, is a book which all teachers should know, whether they teach reading or not. Perhaps no other area has received so much attention as has the problem of reading. Teachers and parents alike are concerned with the child's progress in reading. McKee has written a very interesting book filled with many ideas and techniques on how to build a good reading program in the schools. What is the nature of reading? What program should be developed to teach the fundamentals of reading? How should the reading-study skills be taught? How should children's literature be taught? How should oral reading be developed? These are but a few of the topics discussed.

In part one, “The Nature of the Reading Process,” McKee puts the reader in the place of the first grader and, through the use of a new set of symbols and a set of pictures, you are put through a reading experience which makes you realize some of the problems of the young child just beginning his reading experience. Part two gives a suggested reading program for grades one to six. Houghton Mifflin Company, \$3.60.

HUMAN GROWTH is the new film sponsored by the E. C. Brown Trust in

collaboration with the University of Oregon. The film was produced to correlate with units in the area of social hygiene. Vocabulary and concepts are designed for seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. The subject matter deals with the process of human reproduction. In the continuity an attempt is made to show close relationship between the home and school in meeting the problem of sex education. Good continuity, excellent color, fine acting, and an interesting story go to make up a splendid instructional film. The classroom techniques and methods shown in the film make this an excellent one for teacher education. For information write the E. C. Brown Trust, Division of Social Hygiene, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland 1, Ore.

RADIO TECHNIQUES. Elementary school teachers interested in radio for the classroom will want the new booklet, *Classroom Radio Production*, by Ruth Quinn and Allison McNay. It is written in non-technical language and gives many guides on how to use the motion picture projector, the transcription player, and central sound to give children experience in radio production. Production techniques, music and sound effects, and the operation of equipment are discussed. Excellent illustrations of elementary school

children in action are included. Price \$1., from the C. J. Ver Halen, Jr. Publishing Company, Hollywood, Calif.

FERMENT IN EDUCATION, a symposium at the installation of George Stoddard as president of the University of Illinois, is a book which well deserves the attention of the serious-minded person in education. It is more than a series of talks such as those usually given at the inauguration of a university president. "It is a blueprinting of our national problems in education, and a broad guide to future action." The points of view of many leading educators, scientists, industrialists, and militarists on the problems facing education in an atomic age are put forth in this volume. Some of the topics touched upon are: What kind of education do we need for this atomic age? What are our chances in the race between education and catastrophe? What are the medical implications of atomic research.

Ferment in Education is not a book to be read and forgotten. It is one which should cause all of us to reflect a bit on the implications of the program for education which is expressed and implied. University of Illinois Press, Urbana—\$3.

FOR A BETTER SCHOOL. *Education for All American Children*, the Educational Policies Commission, NEA, is the third volume in a series issued by the Commission. *Education for All American Youth*, and *Educational Services for Younger Children*, the first two of the series, are well known to all educators. The new publication focuses its attention on the elementary school.

Part one describes a series of hypothetical schools and school systems which the people who worked on the volume

hoped might be developed in the next ten years. As one considers the type of school which the Commission is setting up as a goal, it makes the reader wonder what can be done in his own situation to help achieve a better school for all children. The hypothetical cases cited may seem like a dream which cannot be realized. However, part two does describe practices actually existing in the elementary school which do approximate the hypothetical cases set up in part one. This should give encouragement to all school men, and any group interested in elementary education will find this volume challenging. Copies may be secured from the National Education Association, \$1.25.

TEACH THEM ALL is an attractive pamphlet which is a summary of *Education for All American Children*. "It has been published to call attention to the need for systematic planning in elementary education now, and to promote the use of the Commission report." Copies are available from the National Education Association for 35 cents.

STUDY OF THE EARTH. *Living on Our Earth*, by Gertrude Whipple and Preston E. James, is the third book in a series devoted to the study of the earth and man's use of it. This volume is concerned with the study of regional geography and the range of human cultures from the simple to the complex. Some of the topics dealt with are: The Eskimos of North Greenland, The Navajo Indians, The Forest Indians, Rice Farmers of China, Gaining a Living from Our Earth, The Country of Japan, and Trade Between Countries. The photographs are closely correlated with the text. The Macmillan Company—list price \$2.40.

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