

over the character and nature of man than has any one other activity. A man shows what he really is when he is free to do what he chooses, and if a person can be influenced so that his highest aspirations—which are followed when he is free to pursue his ideals—are a gain, then character is being shaped profoundly.”

“A people most truly reveals itself in the character of its pleasures. The pleasures of a people are not the sum of the pleasures of the individuals who compose that people, just as the psychology of the crowd is quite different from the psychology of the individuals composing the crowd. Conversely, the manner of its pleasures is the most determining force within a people. Chinese characteristics are not biologically inherited, as we know by the results of cross adaptation. Chinese characteristics are race tradition inheritances passed on predominantly by the plays and games of the Chinese children. Embedded here in the amber of tradition is the quintessence of that which is Chinese. It passes to the child by the turn of an ancient phrase, the mode of seeing the world as indicated in a century-old story, or the muscular movements of a ceremonial greeting. I doubt if any of us understand the feelings of the Orientals who did not as children play Oriental games in an Oriental atmosphere, with Oriental children.

“It is an impression which has been growing during my years of observation, that the individual is more an agent in life than a directing force. It seems that certain great desires engulf the individual, directing his will, his purposes, to their own ends, but with slight regard for the benefit of the individual himself. These desires come in great waves, growing larger and farther apart as the years pass from infancy to old age. Each of these great waves or tides of desire raises the level of the psychic range and power of the individual, and makes the next one possible. These waves also in a general way seem to mark the successive periods of progress of pre-historic man. In this sense each individual recapitulates the history of his kind, both in individual growth and in social relations.”

Dr. Gulick has embodied in this study the results of twenty years of observation and experience with physical training, athletics, and games. He discusses many forms of games, the extent of the play interest, masculine and

feminine differences in tastes, the play of different groups of individuals, the relation of play to physical growth, moral growth, and education in general, the direction and control of play, its relationship to democracy, and many other important aspects of the subject.

In consequence of the increasing attention to play throughout the world, and our awakening to some of its effects, Dr. Gulick's book is a welcome contribution to the rapidly growing literature on the subject.

A. L. J.

XI

WHAT THE APRIL MAGAZINES ARE FEATURING

BOOKS ON LONESOME TRAIL

From her title Hildegard Hawthorne in *The Bookman* gives us very little idea of what her subject is to be like, but after reading the article we realize the appropriateness of it. It sets before us the new task of the public libraries and the “final step in the progress of getting the books and readers together.” How is it to be done? Not as it was in Johnson's day in London, when all hungry readers, whether or not they could afford to buy, might come to the bookshop and handle and read at will. We have gone even farther than that. Now the Book Wagon follows the lonesome trail and takes pleasure, learning, and ideals for higher life into the mountain fastness, into the isolated prairie towns, and into the lonely valleys, where it will open up a new world for thousands of book-hungry and book-starved souls.

DESIGN FROM MICROSCOPIC NATURE

In the “flower number” of *The Industrial Arts Magazine* Hilda Titus has an article called “Design from Microscopic Nature” which opens up to the student of design another field of ideas for design work from nature. We might think at first that in order to do work of this sort, special scientific training would be necessary. But this is not so. The simplest methods sometimes produce the best results. It is hard to realize what a world of rich fairylike figures the microscope

reveals until we have tried it. Some interesting illustrations accompanying this article show the art student the unsuspected possibilities of the magnifying glass in design work.

THE INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT

"The Interchurch World Movement" we hear discussed on every hand. In *The World's Work*, Tyler Dennet tells us just what this combining of the Protestant forces means, what some of its problems are, and most important of all, the objectives for which it will work. Mr. Dennet compares the whole process through which the churches have been passing to the period through which the nations have been passing in relation to the League of Nations. The arguments for and against both are somewhat similar. The surveys which this movement is inaugurating are going to reveal some startling facts and, the author believes, are going to prove the beginning of a new era in really constructive work of the churches.

THE POWER OF THE PROJECT

The word "project" has become almost a catch-phrase in the educational world. This is so nearly true that there is a danger that its real meaning will be lost. To many now "it seems to be a sweeping innovation." But it is not; it is the method of learning in life applied to the schoolroom. It preaches a new gospel of democracy and is opposed to militarism and bolshevism. That is the way Emma B. Grant interprets it in the *Primary Education* in an article entitled "The Power of the Project." This article will help any teacher to a better understanding and a better application of the much-talked-of "project method" in education.

TAKE A CENSUS OF YOUR MICROBES

This is the report, in *The American Magazine*, by M. K. Wischart of an interview with Dr. Robert T. Morris. It is an application to the daily affairs of man of what science knows about the microbe. It shows the great part that our emotions—envy, love, grief, joy, worry—play in making us healthy or unhealthy. And these emotions, our reaction to life about us, are affected by the activity of microbes in our bodies. The influence of poisonous microbes makes us pessimists, but healthy microbes acting in a normal way make us laugh, and cheer up

not only our face, but our body cells, and people call us optimists. Take a census of your microbes; you have billions of them, but are they helpful or harmful?

NELL M. CRITZER

XII

BRIEF REVIEWS OF BOOKS OF VALUE TO TEACHERS

HOW ANIMALS TALK, by Wm. J. Long, Harper and Brothers, New York. 1919. 302 pages. (\$3.00.)

Animal stories, bearing more or less directly upon communication between animals, chosen from the experiences of a trained observer, and told in a most interesting manner.

The conclusions are (1) that certain animals have distinct though inarticulate cries which are understood not only by their own kind but also by those of other species, (2) that much of the direct communication between animals, whether conscious or unconscious, is telepathic, (3) that the "collective impulse" or "flock mind" has no existence except in so far as a number of individuals receive simultaneously or in rapid succession the same impulse from a single individual.

H. A. C.

DANGER SIGNALS FOR TEACHERS, by Dr. A. E. Winship, Editor of the *Journal of Education*. Forbes & Co., Chicago, 1919. (\$1.25.)

A timely, inspiring book that will appeal to every teacher. This is a book to help teachers meet the new conditions which have arisen in the profession of teaching; it points the way to success. The brilliant author has been prominent in the educational world for a third of a century and has probably addressed more educators than any other living speaker. This is a book that is important to every person interested in education.

THE HEALTH OF THE TEACHER, by Dr. William Estabrook Chancellor. 307 pages. Forbes & Company, Chicago. 1919. (\$1.25.)

How to meet the special problems peculiar to the teaching life is completely told in a clear, practical way by Dr. Chancellor, whose medical knowledge combined with his experience as a teacher and with teachers, fits him in an especial manner to speak on this vital subject. It is for all teachers, men and women, who wish to keep happy, magnetic, and at the highest level of efficiency. The