

If the nursing school should accept the girl who has not completed high school, she will find upon graduation that the majority of the better opportunities in nursing are closed to her. Her future in general is apt to be precarious.

From the point of view of both the community, and the individual patient, the intelligent, well-educated nurse is the only one to whom the lives of the sick should be entrusted.

When more than 4,000 physicians were approached, they were emphatic in demanding nurses of good breeding, good background, and fine training. Patients also want their nurses to have intelligence, breeding, and education. While patients are generally satisfied with the nurses they employ, they make such comments as the following: "My criticism is that applicants for training schools should be considered more carefully before being taken into training. Some of them are sadly lacking in education."

A high school diploma, a high class standing, and intelligence are the basic requirements for a worth while student nurse. Other important qualifications are good health, a real liking for people, conscientiousness, good breeding, and a professional attitude.

MARTHA DREIBLATT

A public government without public information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.—JAMES MADISON.

No man can reach the front rank if he is not intelligent and if he is not trained with intelligence.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness.

—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

DURING the early part of January, Hon. Harris H. Hart, who has been the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for more than twelve years, retired from this office to become associated with the Johnson Publishing Company. Anyone connected with the public school system of Virginia during Mr. Hart's incumbency in office must have been impressed with the great progress that the Virginia system of education made under his leadership. The progress of public education in Virginia was outstanding among that of all states in the union and especially in the improvement of the teaching force. Virginia is fortunate, however, in that a young, vigorous, well-trained leader was promptly selected by Governor Pollard in the person of Dr. Sidney B. Hall, a Virginian who, at the time of his appointment, was a member of the faculty of George Peabody College at Nashville. We predict for Dr. Hall the same type of cooperation that the people of Virginia gave to Mr. Hart and believe that his leadership will be of the same constructive type that characterized Mr. Hart's administration. We sincerely trust that every teacher in Virginia will loyally stand behind him in his efforts to improve public education.

Elevated Standards

In line with the above comment regarding the improvement of the teaching force, it might be well to mention the fact that the elementary certificate for teachers in the public schools of Virginia will no longer be issued to new teachers after July 1, 1931. It is true, however, that the entire summer of 1931 may be used for the completion of the elementary certificate, although this certificate may be dated as of July 1st. This statement means that, after July 1st, the minimum training for teachers coming into the public school system of Virginia will

be two years of training on a college level. This, in most cases, will mean two years of professional training as the professional content of all certificates is being constantly increased. There doubtless will be many teachers who will use the coming summer to complete the requirements for the elementary certificate that may have been begun one or two years ago.

Administration Building

The alumnae of Harrisonburg will probably be interested to know that the new administration building, which stands at the head of the quadrangle and completes the inner group of buildings planned for the College, will be completed and dedicated on May 15. It is planned by the College to make this a great "home-coming" occasion for its alumnae. Ex-Governor Trinkle, chairman of the State Board of Education, will preside at this meeting and among the speakers on the program the College hopes to have Governor Pollard, former Governor Byrd, and President Alderman, of the University of Virginia. Dr. Alderman will deliver the eulogy on Woodrow Wilson, in memory of whom the building has been named "Wilson Hall." In the afternoon of this day the regular May Day Exercises will be given on the lawn and in the evening the first concert in the new auditorium will be held. The new auditorium will seat fourteen hundred people and it is anticipated that the auditorium will be filled for these two occasions. THE VIRGINIA TEACHER through this column in March and April, will give further details about this celebration.

Music Contests

The State Board of Education has requested the music departments of the State Teachers Colleges to conduct elimination contests in group singing for high school choruses throughout the nearby counties.

The purpose of this movement is to create more interest in music and, through compe-

tion, to encourage better singing in the public schools.

In compliance with this request, plans have been made for County contests in Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Augusta, after which a contest for the winning choruses from each county will be held at the Harrisonburg State Teachers College.

In addition to the county contests, plans have been made for an inter-city contest.

Last spring when there were similar contests, sponsored by federated music clubs in Rockingham and Shenandoah counties, the pupils responded with the keenest enthusiasm.

This genuine interest shows conclusively that as soon as it seems practicable to include a well organized course and adequate training in music, the real objective of beautiful singing in the public schools of Virginia will be accomplished.

SAMUEL P. DUKE

Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in. That every man may receive at least a moderate education, and thereby be enabled to read the histories of his own and other countries, by which he may duly appreciate the value of our free institutions, appears to be an object of vital importance, even on this account alone, to say nothing of the advantages and satisfaction to be derived from being able to read the Scriptures and other works, both of a religious and moral nature, for themselves.

For my part, I desire to see the time when education—and by its means morality, sobriety, enterprise, and industry—shall become much more general than at present, and should be gratified to have it in my power to contribute something to the advancement of any measures which might have a tendency to accelerate that happy period.—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.