

Review of the Newest Books

By H. S. ROSS.

"PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES." A Study and Interpretation of American Educational history, by Ellwood P. Cubberley, Professor of Education, Leland Stanford University, Houghton Mifflin Company Boston.

The history of education as an introductory subject for students in normal schools and colleges has recently received much criticism, largely because it has, as usually written and taught, had so little relation to present day problems in education and because it has failed in orienting the prospective teacher.

To be familiar with recent development, to be able to view present-day educational problems in the light of their historical evolution and their political and social bearings, and to see the educational service in its proper setting as a great national institution evolved by democracy to help it solve its many perplexing problems, the writer holds to be of fundamental importance to the beginning student of education and to school teachers.

It is from such a point of view that this book has been written. All but the first two chapters deal with educational development since the beginning of the formation of the American republic, two-fifths of the book deal with the period since 1860; and one third of the book with the problems which have arisen since about 1890, the attempts we have made to find solutions for them, and a look ahead.

To make the volume of greater teaching value there has been added a series of questions for discussion and to most of the chapters a short list of topics for investigation and report. To make the references given of greater value, the author has selected them carefully, prefixed an asterisk to the more important ones, tried to indicate their length and value to the student, and has omitted all, regardless of value, not likely to be found in a small normal-school or college library.

This is one of the Riverside Text Books In Education edited by Professor Cubberley.

"AUX ETATS-UNIS," A French Reader for Beginners, by Adolphe de Monvert, author of "La Belle France." Allyn & Bacon, New York.

This is the companion volume of the author's "La Belle France." Its interest for the student lies chiefly in its portrayal of the way American customs strike a Frenchman visiting the United States for the first time. The secondary interest is found in the colloquial character of the work and its Gallic flavor. Pedagogically the book meets the needs of first and second year French classes. It consists of narrative and idiomatic conversation, supplemented by notes and a questionnaire. The illustrations and the map furnish additional material for conversation. The vocabulary contains all forms found in the text.

The author's two books are the result of earnest efforts to strengthen the bonds between the two great republics by giving young Americans a grasp of practical every-day colloquial French, an understanding of the French point of view, a sympathy for the French attitude of mind and an appreciation of the admirable French qualities of head and heart.

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