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A NOTE from a Victory Physical Fitness Club asks if it is necessary to have a motto. It is not necessary, but perhaps desirable. The motto of the RAF is per ardua ad astra, "to the stars by hardship's way."

THE ASSUMPTION of the title "progressive" by any group, political, educational, religious, or what have you, is a begging of the question. The title can be assumed by the most radical or by the most conservative, and the question still remains, is the group truly progressive?

ATTENTION is called to an article in this issue of the LEAGUER by Dean H. G. Carlson, of the University of Colorado. It seems to us to present a view of American education which is unpleasant to consider but nevertheless salutary.

THE SPEECH director of Berkeley (Calif.) High School writes interestingly to the LEAGUER describing the speakers' bureau organized under her direction for war effort and general community service.

WE ADMIRE the motive but certainly distrust the judgment of those who are making the war an excuse for squeezing out of school life various student activities with the evident intention of reducing the school to the pre-colonial level of "Books," "classroom," "recite and go back to your seat," etc.

UNDER the caption "It's Patriotic to Teach," the Science News Letter (Sept. 5) has the following rather sensible observations to make: "Many patriotic teachers are

becoming restless and dissatisfied with their jobs, and looking for more 'constructive' war work. But in the judgment of many national leaders, those who are doing a good job of teaching youth are as important to the nation as are the soldiers fighting in the front lines.

L. T. GEN. BEN LEAR of "yo-ho" fame has ideas of his own about the qualifications of a successful teacher. He proposes to correct the bad job done in the public schools by teaching American history and related topics to 120,000 men under his command in a few short months.

- 1. A more intelligible and coherent understanding of his country, involving a study of a. Its history b. Meaning of the Constitution c. Meaning of the Bill of Rights

Number two in the outline will be presented first; three, second; and one, third.

General Lear makes a bow to higher education by selecting three outstanding historians and geographers from universities to prepare the outlines of the lectures; and then administers the whole teaching profession a rather stunning blow by declaring that in selecting the officer-instructors no experience in teaching is necessary, and no courses in education.

"A high capacity for leadership and inspiration is the primary qualification for the instructor. Those who are best qualified are officers who have shown the highest degree of ability in training of troops and in field leadership.

Well, he may be right. The present editor of the LEAGUER once organized a course in German philosophy and secured half a dozen learned university professors to administer it to about a thousand young men who were in training for air service.

History Teacher Please Answer This—We Can't

I BELIEVE that the crazy combative patriotism that plainly threatens to destroy civilization today is very largely begotten by the schoolmaster and the schoolmistresses in their history lessons.

Music and Pageantry Help Maintain Morale

IN CERTAIN places and in certain people there is a superciliousness masquerading as intellectualism which looks "down nose" at displays of patriotic feelings.



Picture Appreciation Correction

In the "Supplement" page 8, under heading "Picture Memory" third line, read "Picture Appreciation" instead of "Music Appreciation."

Supplement

In this issue of the Leaguer appears a "supplement to the 1941-42 Revision of the Constitution & Rules" publishing the changes effective for 1942-43 contests.



(By Dr. Cora Stafford, North Texas State Teachers College, Denton, Texas)

ALTHOUGH a large part of the competitive test, that is used as a culmination of the year's picture appreciation course, is the association of pictures with titles and artists, the study defeats its purpose if the teacher merely trains the pupils in rote memory.

Organization according to subject-matter is one of the easiest ways to classify pictures, and this may serve as an initial lesson to familiarize pupils with the pictures to be used in the year's study.

I. PAINTINGS

- 1. Landscapes: After a Summer Shower, Inness; Dance of the Nymphs, Corot; Farmyard Scene, Gauguin; Harp of the Winds, Martin; Icebound, Metcalf.

II. ARCHITECTURE

- 1. Home: Mount Vernon. 2. Tomb: Taj Mahal. 3. Church: Notre Dame.

- 2. Types: Bambino Discobolus. 3. Symbolical Figures: End of Trail; Pioneer Woman.

Classification

It will be seen that not all paintings or pieces of sculpture fall definitely into one category or another; for example, although "After a Summer Shower" is definitely a landscape, "Dance of the Nymphs" is a landscape with figures.

Let your first composition for the year be the classification of twenty-five of the pictures according to subject. Have each pupil start an individual record sheet on which his scores for the year will be kept.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESS

(By Dr. DeWitt Reddick, Associate Professor of Journalism, The University of Texas)

IF A HIGH-SCHOOL paper cannot justify its existence in war time, then it should be abandoned." In these words a high-school principal recently expressed his view about a high-school paper.

Texas high-school papers today are facing a different national situation than that which confronted them in previous years. In many cities administration officials seriously debate the abandonment of school publications for the duration.

Morale Builders

First, if public morale is important in war time, so is school morale. High-school students will encounter many tensions. The war will seem so important to them that school work will become relatively unimportant.

Second, information concerning their part in the home front activities must be presented continuously to students. Already students are plunged into scrap drives. Other drives will follow.

Stress Local Activities

Third, home school activities—due to the transportation situation—must in many fields replace interschool activities. Instead of meeting in conventions and exchanging views, students must learn of worthwhile activities in other schools through some other channel.

I. L. P. C. Aids

The I. L. P. C. this year will tune itself to new circumstances. Particularly do the directors hope to increase the direct-by-mail help to editors and sponsors. More criticisms will be prepared than last year.

IN RE PHYSICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

To the School People of Texas: The State Department of Education is quite eager to cooperate with our armed forces in a type of school program which will make for maximum efficiency in our man power.

Such a program was recently demonstrated at The University of Texas in a school in which the State Department of Education was glad to cooperate with the Division of Extension of the University.

The schools of Texas may feel free to take suggestions liberally from the material which is available from both Army and Navy sources.

Respectfully submitted, L. A. WOODS, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Austin, Texas, September 15, 1942.

Athletics and the War

OUR country is at war and our athletic program must be turned to its needs. Government officials have indicated that they are in accord with the contention of school administrators and coaches that athletics have a great value in contributing to the training of soldiers and future soldiers, as well as to civilian morale.

Because of the age limits of our boys who serve actively in the war, college athletics will be affected considerably but there should be no curtailment in our high-school program, provided governmental authorities consider it of sufficient value to see that the necessary supplies and equipment are available.

The importance of athletics in building and maintenance morale among the participants and the communities they represent is too obvious to require particular comment. The high-school athletic program has been for many years the principal source of entertainment and community interest in most of our smaller areas and now it is of more importance than ever.

Physical Fitness Clubs for Air-Minded

THE armed forces have requested the public schools to include in the curriculum instruction in pre-flight aerobics. A well organized program should include instruction in physics, mathematics, navigation, meteorology, physical training and other allied subjects.

Boys and girls with special interest in the field of aerobics provide a natural unit for a club organization. This group of boys and girls could form Physical Fitness Clubs that would be helpful in promoting and creating interest in every aspect of aviation training in the public schools.

A special physical fitness program has been prepared by the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight schools for conditioning high-school boys. High-school clubs interested in aviation should use this outline as a guide to their physical training activities.

Physical Fitness Clubs with aviation interest may select such names as "Spitfires," "B-24 Bombers," "Ferrying Command," "Flying Tigers," etc. As soon as a club has been organized, please send to the League office the club name and school it represents.

On Teaching History

I BELIEVE that the crazy combative patriotism that plainly threatens to destroy civilization today is very largely begotten by the schoolmaster and the schoolmistresses in their history lessons.

Did you Know—

THAT FREDERICK REMINGTON is the only American illustrator to have a street named after him—Remington Place in New Rochelle. (In Paris nearly every artist has one.)

*Did you know that "Numerology" is "the study of the occult significance of numbers"?—Editor.

