the unity of personality, and we are in complete accord with the attention given to the creation of a happy, joyous atmosphere for the normal, natural growth of students.

The author is a teacher who uses her wide experience to organize the book in a way to make it valuable to those responsible for curriculum making. In part one, fundamental principles of child growth are explained; part two is concerned with the broader aspects of curriculum construction; part three deals with specific phases of the curriculum including a variety of pupil activities and life situations. There are also a supplement and an index covering topics of concern to all teachers and parents. The book is recommended as worthy of careful study and frequent reference.

Pauline Brooks Williamson


In this sequel to Penny Marsh, Public Health Nurse we follow Penny to a large city where she gains further professional experience and training as a supervisor of public health nurses. Her experiences and adventures are numerous—she undoubtedly experiences every possible emergency a nurse in such an organization meets, including an epidemic of influenza. Record keeping, supervising, personal relationships, all are cleverly brought in, so that a girl who has been interested in the public health nursing profession may gain some impression of how much lies before her.

All is not hard work, for Penny lives a fairy princess existence after hours with a bachelor uncle of means, and has her full share of beaux and lovers’ quarrels. As the previous book ends with an engagement, we finally have Penny married, but some may wonder whether after only two years as a public health nurse the training is worth while.

Written entertainingly, with the heroine a charming, successful girl, the educational material should prove most interesting to ‘teen age girls who are in search of advice on choosing a profession. Margaret McC. Hiscock


This is a collection of addresses given on various occasions and biographical sketches, all of which have been published elsewhere. The title is that of an address given at Dartmouth College in 1928. The biographical sketches, with one exception, are of men well known by the author. Haller and His Native Town was the author’s “first literary venture,” written in Berne and published in 1901.

The essays are largely historical but contain a good deal of philosophy, and all of them have some history. The biographical sketches are delightful, especially when the reader has known the subject. Close association, with a naturally observing eye, has fitted the author for the task he has done so well.

Among the addresses, perhaps the outstanding one is “From Tallow Dip to Television,” given at the 150th reunion of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1931. Its one blemish is the fallacy put into the mouth of Dr. Holyoke, the first President of the Society (1781), of attributing to Theobald Smith the elucidation of the connection between strumous diatheses of children and tuberculosis, and showing that they were due to infection from the milk of tuberculous cows. The demonstration of the transmissibility of bovine tuberculosis to human beings was made at the University of Pennsylvania in the Laboratories of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board in 1902. Smith persisted in defending the mistaken idea
of Koch, and it was not until 1905 that he first isolated the bovine bacillus from human tissues.

Altogether, the book is very readable and is a notable addition to the medical history of our times.

Mazyck P. Ravenel


The author attempts to describe and discuss the concepts of statistics by the use of English composition for the most part and without recourse to the mathematical analysis necessary as a background of proof—despite his statement (p. 3) that only in a relatively loose sense may subjectively interpretable words serve as a vehicle of scientific description. Considering the essential limitations of the procedure, he does a good job over a wide range of concepts including such modern items as the t-test, confidence intervals, and z-test for correlation, and Chi-square. One instance of the difficulties due to the limitations is in the treatment of kurtosis (pp. 33, 73) where he speaks of kurtosis as degree of peakedness, degree of curvature at the peak, etc., in a manner that is hardly justifiable scientifically in view of the fact that the isosceles triangle has a smaller kurtosis but a higher and sharper peak than the normal curve of equal standard deviation, and despite the further fact that the measure of kurtosis is derived from the totality of the frequency distribution, whereas his English suggests restriction to the neighborhood of the peak.

The book deals with general statistics rather than specifically with the problems of vital statistics. There are a discussion of adjusted death rates and a comparison of Maine with Montana for 1930, a brief discussion of life tables, and some treatment of sampling variations of rates.

There are a number of unfortunate typographical errors and a number of inaccuracies of statement; for example, when (p. 121) he states that the fluctuations may be justly ascribable to sampling errors although if the reader should routinely compute Chi-square he would find P=.02. In general it must be noted that the spirit of the English school (Pearson, Fisher) is followed rather than that of the continental (Bortkiewicz, Wicksell), with a consequent emphasis on pure chance and a neglect of considerations concerning chance as a cover for all our ignorance including our ignorance of whether the laws of pure chance are applicable to the problem in hand. Incidentally Yule is not cited.

E. B. Wilson


This scientific discussion of health problems in school, in its second edition, has been brought up to date for the use of college classes, for school physicians, nurses, and teachers. A new chapter on Sanitation of the School deals with the school site, heating, lighting, sanitation of pools, and building arrangements. In a second new chapter, important aspects of the Teaching of Health are considered. Useful material is also contained in the appendices, together with valuable reading lists and a glossary. This text has been carefully prepared and should prove equally valuable to teachers and to those engaged in public health work.

Ira V. Hiscock