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Book Notices

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Dr. Ellis has an interesting and commendably different approach to the study of psychology by those who plan to make a career of teaching.

After calling upon a goodly number of contemporaries in the field to define or clarify the functions of educational psychology, the author announces that he will use the problem approach. This he does quite consistently. As Charters has suggested, the engineer is concerned with solving practical problems. In very similar fashion the teacher also is constantly facing problem challenges which he either ignores, runs away from, or solves. He solves them only if he understands them.

So, throughout Dr. Ellis's new book, in a logically complete and comprehensive sequence the prospective teacher is familiarized with the problem areas of the profession. These include, quite naturally, the phenomena of the child himself, the curriculum, extracurricular activities, testing and marks, and efficient techniques of studying and reasoning.

In several lectures, placed strategically among the eighteen chapters, Dr. Ellis summarizes the "general principles of teaching," psychological principles applied to discipline, guidance, mental hygiene, development of attitudes, and other practical problem zones.

In this reviewer's opinion the objectives of the book are well stated and attained. The volume is readable, attractively printed and bound, and the text adequately supported by graphs, case studies, and illustrative references.

As a basic text, after a one semester introduction to general psychology, a future teacher should find this "voice out of the west" most helpful.

Homer Dunathan.