

Reviews

well be that FitzGerald's view will hold sway, and that therefore, as Canadian history teachers attempt to move toward a "new history," our American counterparts will move away from it. Can it be that, in rushing backwards, American pedagogical practice at least in the history domain will make us in Canada look good?

Morton Bain
McGill University

Richard Courtney.
THE DRAMATIC CURRICULUM.
New York: Drama Book Specialists, 1980.
124 pp. \$5.95, paper, \$8.95, case.

The Dramatic Curriculum stresses the point that learning takes place in a natural and dramatic way during all stages of human growth. Following this line of thought, the author takes the reader through the preschool dramatic stage and expands the idea as the child progresses through formal education from nursery school through university level.

Professor Courtney develops the theory that a well-planned curriculum should take into account the use of dramatic responses all along the stages of the educational process. He indicates that for a long time we have stressed the importance of role-playing, but we have not emphasized role playing and other forms of dramatic activity often enough for the school curriculum to include a planned progression along the stages of school development. We have thought of "special classes" of dramatic activity, and have not paid attention to the requirement that there be a definite correlation of drama with many subject-matter areas of the curriculum.

The book has a series of Figures, which give statistical information on many ideas in compact form. As an example, on page 82 one gets at a glance some thoughts relating to age and grade levels which would help in planning drama activities for all grades through the first twelve years of school. In addition to the quality of these figures and the rich ideas included in these charts, there is a bibliography showing depth in research and a listing of authors who have added ideas of high quality for dramatic activity in many areas of learning.

We should have done more of this earlier. Professor Courtney's book demonstrates how it all may become a classroom reality.

Octavia W. Graves
Morehead State University, Kentucky