

BOOK REVIEWS

CAREER COUNSELING--edited by Von H. Robertson. Chicago, Illinois: American Technical Society, 1968, 117 pp., \$3.00.

Career Counseling is the 1968 Yearbook, Trade and Industrial Division, American Vocational Association. Each of nine chapters is written by a different author; one chapter has co-authors. The book is concerned with vocational counseling, guidance, and human resource development services to youth and adults and relates specifically to trade, industry, service, and technical occupations.

The 1968 Yearbook for Trade and Industrial Education shows evolving patterns and projected directions for guidance services; it reflects the current thinking of guidance personnel, labor, and industry as they approach the measurement and assessment of individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes in relation to the current and projected labor market.

Topics included in the ten chapters are: Foundations of Career Counseling, The Administrator's Responsibility for Counseling, Vocational Guidance--How Early Should It Begin, Counseling Adults on Career Adjustment, The Role of The Instructor in Vocational Guidance, The Psychology of Vocational Choice, Career Decision-Making and Information Generation, Labor Market Trends for Skilled and Technical Workers, Financial Resources and Incentives for Career Training Students, It's Time to Re-Examine Confidentiality of Pupil Records.

Brief biographical sketches of all eleven authors and the editor are given as a part of the text. Each author currently is involved in a program directly related to the topic about which he is writing and has had varied experiences which well qualify him as an authority in the specific area in which he is writing. Public school guidance counselors, employment counselors, school administrators, teachers, placement officers, and others whose work relates to decision-making for occupational careers, in-

dividually will find one or more chapters quite specific for their area of work. The subject matter is condensed and to the point. The book is ideal as a reference or as a text for a teacher or employee in-service education program.

Norman K. Hoover
Pennsylvania State University

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PLAIN STYLE--by John Durham and Paul Zall. New York, New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1967, 216 pp, \$3.50

This paperback is unique in that the title, Plain Style, is applied literally to the organization and presentation of content in the book. Thus, readers are assisted in improving their writing using a style that is clear and simple.

The content of the book is based upon the idea that there is a basic and logical pattern or style to all effective communication, that is (1) introduction, (2) related information, and (3) summary or conclusion. This pattern is illustrated in writing paragraphs, idea units, short essays and research papers. Each of these areas is divided into a carefully sequenced series of learning experiences or writing assignments. A typical assignment consists of the following parts: (1) preparation for the assignment (one or more writing rules), (2) a verbal definition of the kind of writing presented, (3) a model (for example, a paragraph or essay), (4) an analysis of the content and style, (5) assignment directions, (6) a list of suggested topics, and (7) a checklist to assist in evaluating the completed written assignment.

Rules of usage and writing rules are interspersed between the assignments in order to help eliminate common sentence errors. Usage is emphasized further at the end of the book with rules, suggestions and examples in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The style and organization of content is similar to that of a programmed text. The reader progresses from the simple to the complex in small, regulated steps. Frequent review and repetition of patterns and terms reinforce learning. Ample provision is made for practice. A color scheme provides emphasis on parts of each assignment.

The content and style of the book demonstrates the ability of the authors to communicate in Plain Style. They have developed and used this method of teaching writing to students ranging in ability from remedial ninth graders to gifted graduate students. It is believed that more advanced students could use the book and improve their writing without a teacher.

This book would be a valuable addition to the library of a professional educator or student. Particularly in vocational education, the student could use the reference in writing papers, speeches, new articles, job applications and in other assignments.

David G. Craig
University of Tennessee

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS ON THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES.. 1607-1967- by John T. Schlebecker. Santa Barbara, California: American Bibliographical Center - Clio Press, 1969, 183 pp., \$15.00 (\$5.50 paperbound).

"This important work lists fiction, non-fiction and standard histories of agriculture- more than 2,000 entries. Published for the Smithsonian Institute. This 183-page book covers the agricultural development of the United States from 1607 through 1967."

While noticeably lacking in references to vocational agriculture, this well indexed bibliography should be a part of the library holdings in all colleges of agriculture.

Gerald R. Fuller
University of Vermont

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