

https://dspace.org/

[Review of the book The i.t.a. experiment , by John A. Downing (London: Evans, 1964)]

Rose, Brian Waldron

1965
Johannesburg College of Education
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/27470
Rose, B.W. (1965) [Review of the book The i.t.a. experiment , by John A. Downing (London: Evans, 1964)]. Symposium: A Journal of Education for Southern Africa, p. 139

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

The i.t.a. Reading Experiment

By Downing (Evans Bros.).

This volume contains three lectures on the Research in Infant Schools with Sir James Pitman's Initial Teaching Alphabet. These lectures were given in America by James Downing, who has been in charge of the research investigations. These three papers compare the progress of the 4 and 5 year olds who started to learn to read by i.t.a. in September 1961 with that of a control group who began at the same time with the look-and-say method.

One can but admire the thoroughness and soundness with which this research project has been undertaken, and this is reflected in this volume, which is well-documented with statistical figures and drawings. The first two papers relate the characteristics of the new alphabet to different problems in reading. The third one is confined to a report of the findings of the first two years of the research project and discusses in particular the problem of transfer of training, a problem which is perplexing many teachers who are anxious to try out i.t.a.

This volume should find a place on the book-shelves of all those who are interested in educational research and particularly of those teachers who are about to embark on their own i.t.a. experiments.

[BWR]

The Modern Dictionary of Quotations

By R. Hyman (Evans Bros.).

Those who like to dabble in works of reference (once having taken the first plunge, they do not mind if they are sidetracked, or even if they do not reach their original objective at all) will be vastly pleased with Robin Hyman's *The Modern Dictionary of Quotations*. In a work of this nature, comparisons are inevitable, and the obvious comparison will be with the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Like history books, dictionaries, especially dictionaries of quotations are out of date almost before they are published. *The Modern Dictionary of Quotations* therefore, in a sense, brings the Oxford volume up to date. Though not on quite the same vast scale as its big brother, Robin Hyman's collection follows the pattern of the Oxford volume. The single column entries are easy on the eyes, and the lay-out of the book is attractive. A useful piece of information to be found in many of the 25,000 entries is the name of the speaker of quotations from plays.

There are naturally many omissions of one's favourite quotations (how could it be otherwise with such a vast range of works to choose from?), but there are some interesting inclusions—Ogden Nash has almost a page to himself (ignored by Oxford); there is a page and a half of Churchillian aphorisms, a fleeting reference to Neville Chamberlain and even a line of Le Corbusier.

Although not so useful to crossword puzzle fans as the Oxford volume, altogether a good three rand's worth of pleasant browsing, even if only to compare the "Punch" entries in the two respective volumes.

[BWR]