

Johnny Is Growing Up •

JOHNNY IS GROWING UP—Johnny, Mary, Bobby, Sally, and Tim, a host of young Americans. Johnny is growing up in the way youngsters have grown up since time began. He is learning to talk, learning to walk, starting to school, losing his teeth, getting to the awkward age, wearing his first long pants, asking a girl for his first date.

Johnny may be 6 or 16, but he keeps right on growing. Today, however, the business of growing up is made difficult for him, for Johnny is growing up in the war years, and the tides of war are tugging at his life. We want to help Johnny. We want him to ride the crest unharmed. But there are many different ideas about why he is in difficulty and how he should be "saved." We know this because we have read all of the articles in this month's *Educational Leadership*. Some of the ideas advanced seem sound to us; some we aren't so sure about; and some we don't like at all. But perhaps it was the ones we didn't like that caused us to do the hardest thinking. That's why we're including them for you to read. We believe that thinking is a healthy process and we wish you the stimulation it affords.

We hope you will enjoy the articles in this issue. Our authors are well-equipped to give us breadth of vision about today's youngsters. They include a newspaper woman, specialists in child development and education of young children, directors of guidance and of education for women, representatives of the armed forces, a social hygienist, a juvenile court judge, a physician, a college teacher with special insight into the problems of boys, and a distinguished European educator.

We have asked these writers to picture for us how youngsters are growing up from the "Small Fry" and the "In-betweens" to "Little Girls as Women" and "Kids in the Army." They tell us about the conditions in which youngsters are living from Buffalo to Wichita; they tell us it is the children who suffer most in a world at war; that there are special war-born problems for youngsters of each age group; that our young people have troubles, but they have courage and strength. The boys and girls in uniform, the war brides, and even the little fellows who run the streets have something fine within them that shines bravely. And they suggest to us how we can understand and be of help.

We *must* understand. It is the wise, the warm of heart, the courageous who can help our youngsters grow up through the war years to years of peace and freedom.

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