

Front Lines in Education

Henry Harap, Editor

AN OBSERVATION CENTER FOR EMERGENCY TEACHERS. As a means of helping the many teachers, new or without recent experience, whom the emergency has brought into our system, one of the schools of Baldwin County has been set up as an observation center. Practically all teachers of the sixteen smaller schools of the county have spent two full days in observing here, during organization week and two months later. During the year as a special need arises, individual teachers and faculty groups visit in the school. Although planned for the emergency teachers, the program is also proving to be valuable for the experienced teacher.

The general plan followed for observation is for the visitors to arrive before the children and remain for the entire day. Observers are provided with an outline of the day's activities, to which is added some explanation of what has gone before. A conference follows the observation for a discussion of what has been seen, with emphasis on the *why* of the various procedures.—Marguerite P. Hayes, *Supervisor of Elementary Schools, Baldwin County, Alabama.*



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, CALIF. The city school district of Alhambra, serving a population of approximately 50,000 with the elementary schools and 100,000 with the high schools, is operating a continuous pro-

gram of curriculum study and improvement which involves all teachers, supervisors, and administrators working in their regular capacities. A portion of each elementary principal's meeting is conducted as a curriculum seminar by the assistant superintendent. On the following day, the principals have teachers' meetings for the purpose of passing on this information and discussing the curriculum problems of their respective schools. This semester all elementary teachers are working on their own social studies units to gear in with a new *Scope and Sequence of Units in Social Studies* developed last year for grades one to twelve by a special committee in our curriculum workshop.—M. R. Stokesbary, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools.*



A SIGNIFICANT EXPERIMENT IN GENERAL EDUCATION ON THE COLLEGE LEVEL. The three-volume report on the General College of the University of Minnesota recently published by the University of Minnesota Press together with an earlier publication tells the complete story of a significant pioneering venture in general education on the college level. During eight of the last ten years the program was directed by Malcolm S. MacLean, now a lieutenant commander in the School of Military Government at the University of Virginia. The first monograph, by Robert

Pace, published in 1941, reported the results of a study of 951 former students of the University of Minnesota after they had been away from the campus a decade. The second study, by Cornelia T. Williams, is an intensive analysis of the behavior and characteristics of 100 representative college students. The third volume, by Ivor Spafford and others, is a record of the experiences of the staff in curriculum building during the first eight years of the life of the experimental college. The fourth volume, by Ruth E. Eckert, is an appraisal of what the General College program did for its young people. Under the direction of H. T. Morse the college continues to operate in closer relationship with other colleges for the University.

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SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAM. Lester K. Ade and his associates in the War Relocation Authority have developed a plan of summer activities for the schools of the several centers operated by the Authority. For the normal school child who does not need remedial or other make-up work, the summer program centers on four main objectives: improvement of physical health and well-being; opportunity for self-expression; opportunity for work experience; opportunity for group experience in a program of civic betterment.

Overnight camping, day camping and hiking, athletics, and the correction of physical defects are recommended for building health. Informal outdoor classes are suggested in arts, crafts, painting, music, dancing, and dramatics. Work experience is proposed as a means of helping youth to explore such vocational interests as farming, laboratory

work in hospitals, office work, electrical work, carpentry, etc. The suggested civic projects are designed to contribute to community betterment, such as conservation, traffic control, and fire prevention. The sponsors of the program believe that those who are interested in the year-round school might be interested in watching its development.

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HOW TO CONTROL JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has just issued two pamphlets of interest to school people: *Understanding Juvenile Delinquency* and *Controlling Juvenile Delinquency*. According to Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Bureau, they contain "the best thinking of people who have lived close to and worked long on the problem of boys and girls in trouble." As long as the free supply lasts, copies may be obtained from the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. Thereafter, copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents each.

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ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION. The Shorewood (Wis.) Opportunity School takes over the public school facilities in the evening for adult education and recreation. Classes are offered in philosophy, current problems, book reviews, Spanish, art metal, woodworking, sketching from life, piano, voice, chorus, string groups, band, homemaking, dramatics for stage and radio, dancing, golf, swimming, ballroom dancing, contract bridge, machine shop, and blueprint

reading. Other activities include the sponsorship of the Sunday Lecture Series in its fifteenth season presenting outstanding speakers and The Forum on Postwar Problems, in which the speaker's presentation is followed by a panel discussion by local experts. The recreation program includes: softball, horse shoe, tennis, indoor baseball, volleyball and fencing. The program is financed through local taxes, State and Federal aid and small class fees and box office charges.—H. M. Genskow, *Director*.



STIMULATING COMMUNITY MATERIALS. Recent reference materials prepared by the Curriculum Office of the Philadelphia Public Schools deal in a realistic way with community affairs. The last three publications present a discussion of social hygiene, the postal service, and elections. Each bulletin was prepared by teachers in cooperation with civic leaders and public agencies. The problems discussed are significant, the treatment is authoritative, and the content is useful. The preparation of these bulletins was under the direction of C. Leslie Cushman, Associate Superintendent.



WASHINGTON CURRICULUM COMMISSION PLANS FOR CURRENT YEAR. The plans of the Washington State Curriculum Commission for the current year call for the continuation of the work of the State and regional committees in health and physical education and the beginning of a state-wide revision of the social studies. Special emphasis will be put on the organization of regional committees whose function will be to stimulate individual schools to improve

their curricula through cooperative study and planning.



TEACHING AIDS IN SCIENCE. The Audio-Visual and Teaching Aids Service of the New Jersey State Teachers College at Upper Montclair has recently published a list of Audio-Visual and Teaching Aids in Science which was compiled by George E. Flimlin, with the approval of Kenneth Orville Smith, Assistant Professor of Science, from material collected by Lili Heimers, director of the teaching aids service of the college. The entries are classified and each includes a brief annotation, as well as the address of the publisher or producer. The price of the publication to those who are not librarians in the public schools of New Jersey is 75 cents a copy.



A NEW HEALTH COURSE. Part of the responsibility of the public schools of Kansas City for meeting the wartime emergency in health and physical education is being discharged through the medium of a new required course for all high school seniors which is called Human Science. Meeting five times a week, this course integrates the more important facts of physiology, nutrition, safety, mental hygiene, and first aid.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION LABORATORY. West Virginia's State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill covers an area of 523 acres with many buildings and other facilities. It also houses a Rural Electrification Center, a unique enterprise which deserves the attention of rural educators. The Laboratory, which is

maintained in cooperation with the utility companies of the State, is a place where farm folks may learn the working principles of electric appliances for the home.

The equipment is so arranged that four separate groups may study different phases of the work and try out electrically operated appliances in various rooms. The laundry center, for instance, includes three completely equipped laundries with different types of equipment. The five kitchens demonstrate all kinds of electrical equipment and appliances. Farm equipment is displayed in a dairy center, a poultry center, a farm workshop with an electric forge, and exhibitions of feed grinding and mixing equipment, water systems, refrigeration room, and many other appliances. The Laboratory is used in connection with the regular camps but is available at all times to the rural people of the State. During the war period, the camp is using all of its resources for the training of Naval Aviation Cadets, but as soon as conditions permit the Laboratory will be re-equipped with the latest material and a new and better program will be provided.

A PICTORIAL COURSE OF STUDY BULLETIN. Under the leadership of W. Virgil Smith, Assistant Superintendent, the mathematics teachers of the Seattle Public Schools have prepared a readable story of how mathematics is learned and used from kindergarten through high school. Profusely illustrated with photographs and attractively printed and bound, it is a fine achievement in book designing. The Seattle schools take the position that skill in computation

and ability in problem solving must be developed against a background of experience. Plenty of drill is advocated only after the child has an understanding of the number process being learned.

A GUIDE TO SELECTION OF FREE FILMS. Teachers and administrators, who have the responsibility of selecting motion pictures, will find the *Educators Guide to Free Films* a useful tool. This annotated and classified list contains over 2,000 titles, half of which are 16 mm. sound films. A source index lists addresses and conditions of loan. The *Guide* may be obtained from the Educators Progress League, Randolph, Wis., for \$3.

BRIEF ITEMS. Miss Alvena Seibert was appointed Supervisor of Secondary Education of the Port Huron (Mich.) Public Schools at the beginning of the current school year. . . . Mrs. Gladys L. Potter, who is on leave of absence from her position as Supervisor of Elementary Education at Long Beach, Calif., has recently been added to the staff of the Division of Comparative Education in the U. S. Office of Education. . . . The Metropolitan School Study Council, composed of superintendents from nearly fifty communities in the New York area, is preparing materials that will tell the lay public the story of what a good school does. The work is under the direction of Paul R. Mort, Teachers College, Columbia University. . . . The San Diego City Schools have completed tentative plans for a summer workshop to be held in a school building especially set aside as a Summer Curriculum Development Center.

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