

## Front Lines in Education

Henry Harap, Editor

INDIANA PLANS IMPROVEMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. Under the leadership of a newly appointed consultant, a representative planning group composed of elementary principals and supervisors, classroom teachers, and professors from teachers colleges met to discuss problems and make plans to coordinate the elementary educational activities throughout the state. A long-range plan was developed which provides for gradual improvement of instruction and enrichment of the curriculum through emphasis on: (1) the use of library materials and community resources; (2) the consolidation of related subjects into areas of learning experiences; and (3) the reduction of the number of pupils within a classroom. An Elementary School Guide was published suggesting more flexible daily programs and indicating how large blocks of time for the language arts, the social studies, mathematics, health and recreation, and the arts would make possible units of work.—Joy M. Lacey, *Consultant in Elementary Education, Indiana State Department of Public Instruction.*

ALTON PLANS IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM. For the past two years an in-service training program for principals and teachers has been in effect in the Alton (Ill.) public school system. The major emphasis of this program has been placed upon: (1) in-service train-

ing for principals; (2) the orientation of teachers new to the system; (3) curriculum revision. The in-service training for principals is being focused upon the major functions of a principal, whether he be the head of an elementary school or of a junior or senior high school. The orientation of teachers new to the system started with a series of meetings at the opening of school, in which such topics as classroom management, materials for instruction, school reports, daily programs, and classroom procedures were studied. Both individual and group conferences are planned as needed. Curriculum committees are studying instructional improvement in science, social studies, English, and library services. Each committee is composed of representatives from every school and its membership is spread over all grades from one to twelve.—P. L. Ewing, *Superintendent of Schools.*

PORT HURON TEACHERS STUDY CURRICULUM. Since the beginning of the present school year various groups of teachers and administrators of the public schools of Port Huron, Mich., have been meeting to study different phases of the present curriculum and to make plans for a revision which will better meet the needs of tomorrow. One group is making plans now to revise the whole social studies program from grade one through twelve in order to be prepared

when new material is available after the war. Another group is composed of junior and senior high school teachers who, in addition to selecting new texts, are revising the complete program of English. New courses in health and home-making for high school girls were developed which include healthful living and personality development in the tenth grade; family relationships, child care, nutrition, and home management in the eleventh grade; and community health services, first aid, physiology, and mental hygiene in the twelfth grade.—Howard D. Crull, *Superintendent of Schools*.



CHANGING SECONDARY CURRICULUM. The Suburban Secondary-School Principals of the Philadelphia area, an organization of administrators, has been studying a number of problems arising from the war. The committee on curriculum changes has recently issued its report setting forth suggested adjustments to meet the postwar needs. The mimeographed tentative statement includes a discussion of work experience, guidance, English, geography, science, and social studies. The committee whose chairman is John H. Tyson, Superintendent of Schools, Upper Darby, Pa., plans to continue its discussions during the current school year. The whole project is being directed by a planning committee under the chairmanship of George C. Galphin of Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, Pa.



BURBANK CURRICULUM COMMISSION. Burbank (Calif.) City Schools have been busy with continued curriculum development. The Teachers' Curricu-

lum Commission, made up of classroom teachers working in small cross-section committees and representing all maturity levels, has proved an effective agency for the consideration of curriculum problems. Working with the Commission, supervisors and coordinators recently prepared a revised statement of the social studies course of study, known as the *1944 Supplement to a Teachers' Guide to Curriculum Development*. This supplement brings up to date the statement on areas and units taught in each grade level from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The following consultants from the Department of Education of Stanford University have spent several days each in the Burbank Schools: James Quillen in the field of social studies, Holland Roberts in English, L. B. Kinney in mathematics, Lavonne Hanna in the field of evaluation.—Louise L. Wickersham, *Director, Division of Elementary Education*.



NEW ARITHMETIC COURSE OF STUDY. One hundred teachers and principals of the Green Bay (Wis.) Elementary Schools have spent four years in the cooperative building of an arithmetic curriculum. Trends given attention include: thinking of the curriculum in terms of life needs; omission of useless arithmetic; withholding of systematic drill from first and second grades; reinforcing of definite instruction by activities planned to give meaning and motivation; omission of short division from elementary school teaching; deferring of percentage and interest to seventh grade; elastic arithmetic groupings within a room; maximum use of objects, children's experiences and life

problems, particularly the child's own problems; much stress on problems without numbers; less reliance on paper and pencil.—Ethel Speerschneider, *Curriculum Building Chairman*.



**EDUCATIONAL NEED FOR MOTION PICTURE MATERIAL.** The American Council on Education has just announced the appointment of a Commission on Motion Pictures in Education. It will study the needs of schools and colleges for motion picture material and will plan for the production of new films for courses of study in which new pictures are needed. The Commission is particularly interested in receiving curriculum materials that can be used as the basis for films. For the present, address all inquiries to Mark A. May, 28 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Conn.



**STUDY OF FUNDAMENTALS OF WORLD PEACE.** The Commission to Study the Organization of Peace has prepared a report containing eleven basic proposals, which are the minimum requirements for future world peace. The publication should stimulate thinking about world organization after the war among mature students and informed adults. Copies of the report may be secured without charge by writing to Emily Hickman, Chairman of the Education Committee, 8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, N. Y.



**TEACHERS ACTIVE IN MONTCLAIR.** Curriculum planning in the Montclair (N. J.) Public Schools is being carried on by four committees in English,

mathematics, science, and social studies, each having representatives of teachers of grade levels from one through twelve. The Curriculum Coordinating Committee, also composed largely of teachers, is the central agency to integrate the work and to suggest new undertakings. In the senior high school, a committee of teachers under the guidance of Hollis T. Caswell of Teachers College is planning the postwar program of secondary education.



**WORKSHOP PRODUCES COURSE OF STUDY.** Elementary teachers are authors of a *Course of Study in Arithmetic* that will soon be published by the Board of Education of the Mansfield (Ohio) Public Schools. The bulletin was developed and written last year in a Workshop in Arithmetic, conducted in Mansfield under the supervision of the Ohio State University, and directed by Lowry Harding. The course of study covers work in arithmetic in the first six grades. Final editing and preparation of the copy for the printer is in charge of Edwin A. Fensch, school psychologist.



**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES.** According to the *Kansas City Schools*, a publication of the public schools of that city, Howard Wilson of Harvard University said: "If my daughter could have only one year in the social studies, I would choose economic geography: if she could have two, I would choose economic geography and modern world problems; if she could have three, they would be economic geography, trends in world history, and modern world problems. . ."

BRIEF ITEMS. Postwar education will be the theme of the fourteenth annual conference on curriculum improvement to be held at Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn., on July 26 and 27, 1944. . . . E. R. Jobe, High School Supervisor, Mississippi State Department of Education, has recently been elected president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. . . . J. Paul Leonard, who has been with the OPA for nearly two years, is leaving his position as Director of the Consumer Division, to return to Stanford University to work on a postwar planning project for the University. He will also serve as chairman of the Publications Committee of the Department for the next year. . . . Donald M. Tower, at one time curriculum director of the Binghamton (N. Y.) Public Schools, has been named president of the New York State Teachers College at Brockport. He comes to the presidency from the New York State Teachers College at Oswego, where he was director of training. . . . C. R. Maxwell, Assistant Secretary of the Educational Policy Commission, will soon become Dean of Administration at the University at Denver. . . . W. C. Wrinkle, who has been working temporarily for the Civil Aeronautics Authority, has returned to his work at the Colorado State Teachers College. . . . Harold C. Hand is serving in Cairo as Coordinator of the Special Service Program with the United States Air Forces in the Middle East. He has charge of classes organized for men in the Air Corps. . . . Alvin C. Eurich, until recently serving with the United States Navy, has returned to Stanford as vice-president of the University. . . . Samuel Everett, formerly of North-

western University and at one time chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society for Curriculum Study, is now director of the Junior Red Cross in Philadelphia.



#### NEW CURRICULUM BULLETINS

- Fort Worth Public Schools—*Language Arts. A Handbook for Teachers, Grades 7-12.* Fort Worth, Tex.: Fort Worth Public Schools. 1944. 70 pp. Mimeographed. 50 cents.
- Ohio State Department of Education—*Curriculum Bulletins.* Columbus: State Department of Education. Paper covers.
- A Wartime Focus for Ohio's Elementary Schools:* 1943. 31 pp.
- A Handbook of Inexpensive Resources and Services for Ohio Elementary Teachers:* 1944. 29 pp.
- Working With the Child from Two to Six:* 1944. 24 pp.
- Wilmington Public Schools—*How Art Contributes to Our Daily Living.* Wilmington, Del.: Wilmington Public Schools. 1943. 189 pp. Paper covers. \$1.25.
- Washington State Office of Public Instruction. *Temporary Guides for the Senior High School Curriculum.* Olympia, Wash.: Washington State Department of Public Education. 1943. 196 pp. Paper covers. \$1.

CORRECTION: *The Report of the Creative Arts Committee for Elementary Schools* sells for \$1.25 and is not obtainable free, as was inadvertently stated in the March issue of *Educational Leadership*. This publication may be ordered from New Rochelle (N. Y.) Public Schools.

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