

ALEXANDER FRAZIER

Professor of Education

The Ohio State University, Columbus

"NEW Knowledge about Children" is the theme of an invitational round table being conducted by the ASCD Advisory Council on Elementary Education early in January in Washington, D.C. Experts in various fields—medicine, psychiatry, psycholinguistics, sociology, and psychology—will present papers before a panel of ASCD specialists in elementary education, whose task it will be to press for some of the implications the new knowledge may have for curriculum and instruction. The papers and accompanying statements on implications may form the basis for a later publication.

International Textbook Cooperation

Jean Grambs of the University of Maryland reports that more than three million textbooks in language arts, reading, and arithmetic have been printed by an organization known as ROCAP, which, with USAID support, is working to provide elementary school textbooks for Central America and Panama. Dr. Grambs has been serving as one of the consultants to the project, which will turn its attention next to providing texts for social studies and science.

December 1965

Institutes on Elementary English

Five four-day institutes on "New Directions in Elementary English" are being sponsored in the late winter and early spring by the National Council of Teachers of English. Dates and locations follow: February 12-15, Santa Barbara; February 26-March 1, Atlanta; March 5-8, Chicago; March 26-29, Omaha; and April 23-26, Baltimore. The series is being directed by Alexander Frazier, assisted by Eldonna Evertts, new Council assistant executive secretary with special responsibility for elementary English. Details on the institutes may be obtained from the Council office (508 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, Illinois 61822).

Materials on Cultural Diversity

Working under a grant from the Office of Education, the Lincoln Filene Center at Tufts University (Medford, Massachusetts) is developing innovative materials and procedures on education about cultural diversity, kindergarten through grade six.

New Social Studies Program

The Rose Tree Union School District of Lima, Pennsylvania, has been work-

ing over the past two years on a new K-12 social studies program. This program, according to J. D. McAulay of Pennsylvania State University, is not only grounded in key concepts from the social sciences but gives "detailed consideration to modes of investigation, processes of learning, and the development of attitudes and skills essential to learning in the social studies."

Children Study Human Behavior

Children are being taught (a) how situations in the social environment come about, (b) what the feelings are of the people involved, and (c) what effect the method chosen to work out these feelings can have on others in a new program of "causal behavior teaching" in several elementary classrooms of the Westside Community Schools, District 66 at Omaha, Nebraska. Maria Laas, coordinator of elementary schools for the district, reports that the program is based on the work of Ralph H. Ojemann and his staff at the Preventive Psychiatry Research Station of the State University of Iowa. The program emphasizes the importance of taking an inquiring attitude toward social situations and of exercising flexibility based on a study of alternatives and their possible consequences.

Pilot Program in Teacher Education via TV

Another statewide program in educating elementary teachers in the new mathematics by way of television is reported by Joseph Crenshaw of the Florida State Department of Education. A group of teachers in Bay County is serving as a test group in getting the program under way. Beginning in late

September, the teachers started viewing half-hour television programs each Monday after school for 28 weeks.

The programs were prepared by Robert Kalin of Florida State University's mathematics education department. Dr. Kalin has prepared work guides for teachers that introduce each lesson and present follow-up activities.

New Language Arts Guide

Florida is also printing a new guide to teaching the language arts in the elementary school; it should be ready soon for general use.

Teaching Skills and Sensitivity

George Miller, of Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, reports that the college is trying out this year a new way of bringing more of the behavioral sciences to bear upon teacher education. A two-weeks "Teaching Skills and Sensitivity Laboratory" will be conducted for all juniors just prior to their entry into the first of their two regular student teaching assignments. It is hoped this experience will help students become "demonstrably more sensitive in interpersonal relations in general and in classroom pupil-teacher interaction in particular."

Resource Teacher Added

Montgomery County, Maryland, is adding a general resource teacher to the staffs of its elementary schools this year. This person will assist teachers, especially new teachers, in identifying educational goals, becoming aware of available resources, and learning to secure these goals. In addition, he will assist the principal in providing overall instructional leadership.

Team Supervision in Milwaukee

Dwight Teel and Lillian Paukner report that the elementary schools of Milwaukee have been organized for team supervision this year in an effort to offset the problem of expanding size. The school district now has eight areas, with an average of fifteen elementary schools of varying socioeconomic backgrounds in each area. Four coordinators will head up the program under the executive director of the elementary department, each coordinator working with two teams. Teams include general and special subject supervisors.

Midland Ready To Go in New Math

Midland, Texas, according to Paul Kantz, is completing its teacher preparation for a new K-12 mathematics program. The four-year in-service venture has resulted in 75 percent of the elementary staff members completing one or more courses in mathematics, some taught by school district personnel and others offered as college extension or campus courses. The school district makes educational grants of \$300 each to ten percent of the faculty each summer for six hours of work at colleges of their choice. Paul also reports that more than two thousand parents have taken intensive short courses in modern mathematics during this preparatory period.

More New Math: Ladue, Missouri

Elementary school teachers of the Ladue, Missouri, School District used a three-day pre-school workshop this fall to plan the first lessons in their new mathematics program that has been

three years in developing, Frank Morley reports. The preparation of this program has involved three summers of local workshops and the pilot use of various programs.

New Guidance Program in Euclid, Ohio

In a pilot project under the State Department of Education, the elementary schools of Euclid, Ohio, are planning to institute a new guidance program that will provide one counselor for each 500 children. The counselor will work with individual pupils and, as needed, with groups of pupils; confer with parents; serve as consultant on the testing and evaluation program in the school; and conduct in-service training, according to Ron W. Davis, assistant superintendent of the Euclid schools.

Central File of Resource Persons

Elementary teachers in Minneapolis, reports Mable Melby, will be able this year to tap a central file of resource volunteers who are available for enlarging the breadth of information in the classroom.

"Time-Line" in Social Studies

Frances Lashbrook reports that in Owensboro, Kentucky, some of the teachers are "experimenting with horizontal history—taking a look at what was happening in all parts of the world during specific decades or half centuries." This is only one of a number of new approaches being tested, she states. She also believes that the absence of graded classification in the Owensboro schools has served to stimulate the exploration of alternatives to the more familiar social studies patterns.

Copyright © 1965 by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. All rights reserved.