Teacher Tells Special Class Work Benefits

Work in Omaha Has Advanced in 12 Special Classes and Seven Ungraded Classes.

By MADELEINE I. COHN.

OMAHA

Since that time people everywhere ence, Kellom (2), Long, Train. have realized the advisability of these classes so that even smaller cities in our own vicinity—Lincoln, Columbus, Des Moines, Marshalltown and Ottumwa are establishing them.

In Omaha the work has expanded until we now have 12 special classes

and seven ungraded classes under the supervision of Leon O. Smith. Even this number is small for Oma-ha, according to Terman's estimate of the proportion of mentally deficient children in a community. For the sake of those who would like to visit and learn more of the

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Some of the rooms are comfortable, others small and inadequate. One teacher has so many pupils that

schools the large classes have two teachers. The variation depends on the population and congestion of the particular school. A parallel variation exists in the perosnnel of the class. If you know the type of child attending any school, you know in ticularly good, bad, large, small, rich, work after the schools open again in or poor. In the special classes. September, the list of schools with where the world is adapted in quality special or ungraded rooms is in- and quantity to the abilities of pu-

each. The former are borne with more patiently than are those in the regular class room, where the course of study is adapted to the average child. The capabilities of each are fostered, if possible, to vocational

If the child is markedly deficient along one or two lines only, he is strengthened, if possible, along those lines so that for a year or two at least he may get regular classroom. experience with the room he catches general the type in its special class. up with. If he falls behind again Most of the children are not noticehe returns to strengthen up once he returns to strengthen up once more. Since no child is admitted to a special class unless a mental examination proves him at least 25 per cent slower than a normal child, it stands to reason no ex-special pupil When Omaha established special classes for deficient children five years ago, it placed itself with Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Providence and other intellectually advanced cities.

Inose naving two teachers pils, where the teacher's heart is with them (or she wouldn't teach them), there, with their own kind, they have as great a chance as public schools can offer. The teacher, working year after year with the same pupils, gets to know the particular difficulties and capabilities of classes after 16 attest the interest and classes. own free will remain in the special aration to meet this condition. Norm value of the class to them. Moreover, the level of intelligence and the quantity and quality of work done a normal room is raised when the eficient child need not be waited

> class, what do they learn? They learn, or at least study, almost what other children learn only not at such other children learn only not at such a great race. They forget more quickly, they reason poorly, but they progress. In place of the usual twice a week manual training, they have daily handwork. They become more or less proficient in a great variety of manual arts, from simple sewing, crocheting, knitting, em-broidering, and the like for girls, and carpentry for boys, to clay work, woodcarving, basketry, and rug making. Many of the rooms are equipped with large looms for makng rag rugs. In accordance with the policy of trying to make the room self-supporting, the expense of the rugs and basketry is covered by the

equipment, and is also about the most interesting form of handwork. Toys made from old crating and cigar boxes cost practically nothing except for paint and saw blades, and can be purchased by the makers who could otherwise afford few toys, but several years ahead. who can thereby have what they please to make with the extra joy which comes through effort and

tion shows that the average annual tuition is not more than \$10 above the tuition for the normal child. When we consider how much more it would cost to keep some of these children in institutions where they must be housed, fed and clothed besides, we realize the insignificance

"How much shall we tell our laughters?" asks a magazine writer. Well, it isn't possible to tell them much.—Peoria Transcript.

Bee Want Ads Produce Resulta.

Telephone Firm Preparing for Rush Business

Confidence in Return of Prosperity Shown by Plans for Extension of

Normal business conditions are on the way and almost here, according to W. B. T. Belt, president of the Northwestern Bell

"Our confidence in the rapid return of prosperity to the urban and rural industries of the middle west," says Mr. Belt, "is evidenced by our prepally we must build about \$5,000,000 of new plant each year in our territory to meet the constantly growing demands of the public for tele-phone service. Our plans for the future presuppose even greater re-quirements on the part of the public. The five states throughout which we operate is a vast inland empire hardly out of its swaddling clothes. Millions more people can and will live comfortably and profitably in this great middle west. This will mean increased prosperity for the interests already here, as these multitudes of new people come to live among us. "We, of the telephone company,

more than ever before, are interesting investors in the purchase of our securities so that we will be able to finance the rapid and continuous growth which we expect in our business during the next several years. Must Plan Ahead.

"Prospective business conditions have a direct and important bearing upon the plans of our company," says Mr. Belt. "In order to opersale of the attractive finished prod- ate economically and efficiently we must know to a remarkably accu-Toymaking calls for very little rate degree how many people will quipment, and is also about the live in our territory each year for many years ahead, where they will live and how much money they will spend. Prospective population and business conditions form the basis upon which we make our plans for

"Every time our company lays a cable underneath the ground in Omaha or strings a wire down the highways leading out of the city, we It is very difficult to estimate the must have confidence in the continued growth and prosperity of the cipal supplies used-paper, books, and the like are borrowed from the ap-propriate rooms. However, calcula-to meet the needs of present telephone customers, must have extra wires to which can be connected additional telephones as they are ordered for new homes and places of business that are constantly springing up. When we build a switchboard or erect a central office building, we must likewise have confidence in the future. It would not be economical or practical to build just for a day or a year.

Close Study Made. "Since we must be prepared to give service promptly at any time, our company has to be guarded by close study of probable requirements. These studies are made for as far ahead as 20 years. Our actual operations today are guided by a five-year estimate of conditions. This five-year program is based upon investigations made and reports prepared in communities where we operate, estimating probable growth, probable business conditions and probable use of the telephone durng that period.

"Working with such a program, our managers must have the utmost confidence in their estimates of the probable growth and development of heir communities. This confidence s expressed by A. F. McAdams, our manager in Omaha, and I am happy to say that it is also felt by our hunireds of other managers throughout this part of the country."

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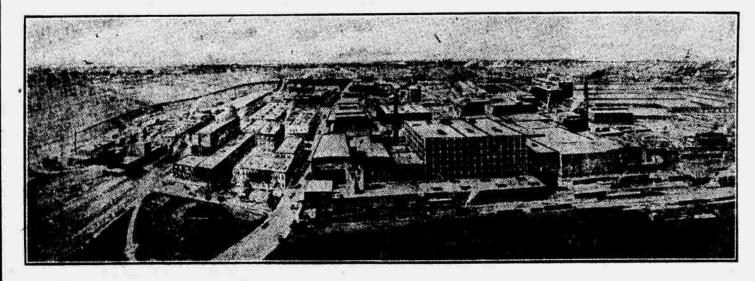
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