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SCHOOL AND COLLEGE WORK

Work of New Department of School Hygiene in Boston.

CO-EDUCATION TRIED IN GERMANY

Activities of Vacation Schools in Large Cities—Changes in College Facilities—Educational Notes.

Scarcely twelve months ago a new department of school hygiene was instituted in the public schools of Boston. Some experimental work in that direction has been undertaken in other large cities, notably in greater New York, but not with the systematic thoroughness which characterizes the work in Boston. The results of the year's trial are decidedly favorable to the system. Although many difficulties had to be overcome in making the department fit into the school machinery, it was reduced to a system before the close of the school year, and was marked by a decided gain in the general health of school children.

A writer in the Boston Transcript describes the methods of the new department, and gives some interesting facts. He says, in part:

In accordance with the provisions of the act of 1907, eighteen park playgrounds have been placed under the jurisdiction of the school committee, for the use of the children and their elders; and these, with the twenty-eight schoolyard playgrounds already in use by the schools, have provided ample facilities for the institution of the new system.

The word "system" is used advisedly, for not fewer than five thousand children a day, from the grammar and primary schools, are being amused and instructed through the vacation season. Nothing less than system and discipline could make other than riot of such a gathering in the open air. From seventy to ninety girls and from eight to ten hundred and twenty boys average to gather daily in each of the playgrounds and school yards and in the congested districts the number often exceeds three hundred. Eight trained athletes, of the type of Lenzy, the famous right guard of Harvard, and Matthews, the Harvard base ball coach, have charge of the park playgrounds, and the boys are instructed in all the mysteries of foot ball, base ball, putting the shot, high jump, broad jump, racing and a score of other attractive exercises; and an equally pleasing program, adapted to their sex, is provided for the girls. Even to the small boy with blocks, the small girl with dolls and the tot that can only toddle about the sand heaps, is the benefit of amusement and exercise given. Bids will be opened this week for permanent apparatus to be installed in the yards and playgrounds, and extra care has been taken to specify only that which is safe and indestructible. Thus thousands of children who never before saw a plaything that could benefit while it also amused them will find every form of healthful exercise provided about the familiar premises of the school. If the weather is inclement, the schoolrooms may be opened and the children saved a drenching; the janitor is paid for his extra work at the rate of seven cents a room a day.

One of the innovations of the new regime is to prescribe that every time a pupil rises in the schoolroom, for recitation or whatever purpose, he shall be required to stand easily and correctly; and that he shall learn to walk properly from the time he enters the public school. Since military drill, hitherto a separate department, has been placed under the jurisdiction of the department of hygiene, every school session is opened with ten minutes of simple setting-up drill. All the windows are thrown up, a star pupil steps to the platform and takes "command," and the pupils exercise their muscles and fill their lungs deeply with pure air. One estimated benefit of this requirement is that as the boys go out into life they will take with them the knowledge of how easy it is to start the day right, physically speaking, and what a flood of health and vigor can be poured into the system by a few simple movements.

Much tact and skill are required to conduct the nursing division with due regard to all the sensitibilities to be considered and still to obtain practical results. The nurses, of whom there are thirty-four, are forbidden to wear either cap or uniform. A small stickpin is the only badge of their authority. It is the desire of the department, that for diplomatic reasons, the nurses shall be identified by parents and children with the

teaching rather than any supervisory or inspective force; and in the execution of the necessary orders of the physicians the utmost care is taken to avoid friction with and to respect the wishes of, as far as possible, parents and family physicians. The function of the nursing division is essentially preventive; and so efficiently is its work being done, partly by means of an innocent, but very practical detective system, that the division has discovered the existence in the school community of five times more communicable diseases than the inspectors of the Board of Health had reported in twelve years. This remarkable record implies no reflection upon the health department, for its inspectors cannot avail themselves of the peculiar facilities of the school authorities for obtaining information.

In its recommendations for the treatment of disease or deformity found in school children, the department leans strongly toward conservatism. Operations are avoided in every possible instance. It is the belief of the physicians that in many cases the children will outgrow their ailments, and in others, where operations might be advised were the immediate cure of the disease the only consideration, the child should be let alone if the disease, like adenoids, is found not to be causing deafness, or to interfere with the breathing. Where specific directions are given by the physician, the nurses prove very useful in making certain that these are carried out. In the dental clinics of Boston, which have been thrown open to the pupils of the public schools, not fewer than 5,000 children are in process of treatment.

Some idea of the scope and usefulness of the inspective work of the new nursing division may be gathered from the following report of the first twenty nurses appointed under the Department of School Hygiene for the period from September 11, 1907, to February 1, 1908: "Diseases of ear, 1,902 cases cared for; eye, 6,078 cases cared for, including 2,649 suffering from defective vision, of which 1,121 were corrected by oculists; nose, 2,062 cases, of which 1,496 had in many cases of whom had the obstruction removed; mouth, 1,786 cases, including 1,041 who had carious teeth; throat, 1,385 cases, including 683 of hypertrophied tonsils and 688 of tonsillitis; skin, 10,139 cases, all of which were followed to their homes and the parent or guardian instructed how to care for them." These figures do not include the specific infectious diseases; and it may be added that 3,120 excluded pupils were taken to their homes, 2,293 to family physicians and 827 were returned to school cured with a minimum of absenteeism. More than 7,500 home visits were made for the purpose of instructing parents or consulting them; and 4,772 children were taken to hospitals on request of the parents. These astonishing results were reached in the infancy of the department, and when only twenty, instead of the present thirty-four nurses were employed. In no one case has the number of days absent exceeded the number of days present. The Board of Health reported more than 77 cases of diphtheria among school children, or 31 cases of scarlet fever; in less than five months following September 11, 1907, the nursing division discovered 392 and 47 cases, respectively. There can be no estimating the number of lives saved, the amount of suffering and expense avoided for pupils and parents under the new system.

COLLEGE PRESIDENCIES VACANT

Members of Iowa State College Faculty in Demand.

The presidency of Morningside college at Sioux City and that of Kansas State college may be filled by members of the Iowa State college faculty. Friends of Dr. O. H. Cessna, professor of history and psychology, are said to be urging him for the former position, while for the latter Prof. G. H. Johnson will be named. Both gentlemen possess in the very highest degree the essential qualification of the successful administrator. It is known that neither of them has done, or will do, anything to secure an election, in fact friends have urged them not to consider a proposition so well being created as this. Both gentlemen are happily situated and friends of the State college hope they may not be tempted to leave.

State University of Iowa.

IOWA CITY, Ia., Aug. 2.—(Special.)—In the future reports to the State University of Iowa will be given the university credit for time spent in religious study. This action was taken by the university authorities today upon the recommendation of the committee on religious work. No student will be allowed university credit for more than two recitations per week, and only eight religious recitations can be applied on a university degree. The representative of any denomination will be allowed to offer a course in religious study and if the outline of the course is approved by the university committee university credit will be given. The university has been compelled to accept work done in this line from the denominational schools of the state and the step was taken in order to give the university students the same advantages as those who attended the other institutions.

VETERINARY SCIENCE.

Result of Investigation by Department of Agriculture.

The expert commission appointed by the secretary of agriculture to examine and classify the institutions in the United States and Canada that teach veterinary science has recommended some colleges unconditionally as to the fitness of their graduates for positions in the government service, others conditionally and others not recommended at all. These recommendations have been approved by the secretary of agriculture and he will be guided by them in making appointments. The commission recommended the adoption of a minimum course of study for veterinary colleges to entitle them to recognition, to be put into effect after the close of the next college year. The announcement of the Kansas City Veterinary college for the coming year shows that it has already adopted the prescribed curriculum without waiting the year allowed. As the curriculum was already of a high order and this was one of the colleges unconditionally endorsed, little change was necessary. In future students must present certificates of scholarship or pass an examination in all veterinary colleges having government recognition. The Kansas City institution has always required this, but many others have not. Students in such colleges can not get credit for work done.

WOMAN'S COLLEGE ADVANCED

Illinois Institution to Confer Legislative Degrees.

By the action of the university senate last January the Illinois Woman's college at Jacksonville was advanced to full college standing and will hereafter confer the regular collegiate degrees. Several additions have been made to the faculty to provide for additional courses. The department of domestic science and art, established two years ago, has made rapid development. Sixty students have enrolled in it this year. The first graduate has been appointed teacher of domestic science in the East St. Louis public schools. The faculty has been enlarged by the appointment of Ina K. Pitney of Evanston, in charge of domestic science, and Grace E. Russell of Peoria, in charge of domestic art. They are both graduates of the Teachers' college.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

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Some of the strong features of the Wayne Normal, which commend the school to those seeking an education, are: A strong teaching force; a beautiful location; thorough and practical courses; moderate charges; wholesome, moral influence; splendid buildings and equipment; students may enter at any time; no entrance examinations are required; students may take just the studies they wish; graduates receive state certificates; students are assisted to good positions; superior boarding facilities; good libraries and laboratories; model school the entire year; excellent free tuition; graduates admitted to sophomore class of the state university without examination; an agricultural course the full year of six weeks; a winter term of agriculture of 12 weeks; a thorough course in manual training; review classes in branches each term; each department has its special teachers and complete equipment. No school enjoys a better reputation. Method classes each term.

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GERMAN CO-EDUCATION.

An Experiment Attracting Attention in the Empire.

Up to within perhaps ten years no practical test of the possibility of co-education had been made, but recently the school authorities in the Grand Duchy of Baden have made a trial of its possibilities, and the experiment is looked upon with considerable interest by the school authorities in other parts of the empire. From a recent official report the Cologne Gazette makes the following deductions, showing to what extent the female sex has entered the gymnasiums.

"While the number of girls who attended the boys' schools in the school year 1907-8 was only 436, this number has increased threefold during the last school year. Therefore the opinion of the higher school officials excites the greatest interest about the co-education of the sexes in the higher schools of the Suederland. In the last number of the official school report the chairman of the board of school directors of the Grand Duchy makes a very favorable report on the conditions since the admission of the girls to the boys' middle schools. All of the school principals admit the capability of the girls and their ability to comply with the courses of study, and in many cases the report of the observant and intelligent interest of the girls in many special subjects were observable, besides their presence in the classes exerted a very favorable influence on the conduct of the boys. An excellent effect was noted in the behavior and appearance of the male pupils

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(Continued on Fifth Page.)

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HARRY N. RUSSELL, Head Master, Kearney, Neb.



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