

Special New York Schools Seen Helpful To Disturbed Children

Editor's note: In the past year, New York City's public schools have been terrorized by a wave of juvenile delinquency that included vandalism and attacks on students and teachers alike. In March, however, authorities suspended the most dangerous, the most incorrigible of the trouble-makers, and the Board of Education set up special schools for them—so-called "700" schools where they would get strict supervision and special care.

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

New York — (UPI) — Take 360 of the worst students in the nation's largest school system, boys and girls so disturbed that no school or teacher can reach them in emergency schools, set up on a crash basis because the law says you must at least try to educate children, even if they cannot possibly fit into normal school situations.

Place them in emergency schools, set up on a crash basis because the law says you must at least try to educate children, even if they cannot possibly fit into normal school situations.

Add seasoned teachers, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists. Put only eight to ten children in one class. Mix in large doses of individual attention, trust and special care.

And then give the kids a chance to succeed.

Common Occurrences

New York City's Board of Education did this last March with 300 boys and 60 girls suspended from their regular schools as the wildest and most dangerous denizens of a "blackboard jungle" where vandalism, attacks on teachers, sex assaults and even murder of fellow students was a frighteningly common occurrence.

The Board set up three schools for them, two for 150 boys each and one for the 60 girls. Since, for more than eight years the City had been maintaining so-called "600" schools for problem children, the new schools were given the number "700." They'll probably receive another, less coldly official title in a short while.

Part of the Answer
Have the "700 schools" been successful? The fact that the Board plans to open one and possibly two more in the fall offers part of the answer. But, beside that, here is the comment of William A. Hamm, associate superintendent in charge:

"We think, roughly, that 60 per cent of the children, pos-

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ably more, have responded quickly and have been helped. Besides, principals, teachers and assistant superintendents have stated that the removal of these children from the regular stream has measurably helped the schools from which they came."

While Hamm stresses that this is no scientific experiment where results can be measured with mathematical accuracy, principals and teachers at the "700" schools reported these hopeful signs:

"There has been only one attack on a teacher. The boy involved and his victim are now good friends."

Progress Made

—Tight dungarees and skirts, leather jackets, garrison belts, storm trooper boots, ducktail hair cuts and offensive language have all but disappeared.

—Progress is being made in scholastic work which is pegged at a level which gives the students some chance of succeeding.

—Parents and guardians of the pupils report "improved conduct" at home.

—And truancy, which had raged through the group in epidemic proportions at their old schools, is down to a minimum. New York City's "700" schools have apparently scored a hit with the youngsters they were set up to help.

(Next: A penny and a kiss.)

Lung X-Rays Reveal People Who Look Older Than Years

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor

New York — (UPI) — A new avenue to an understanding of why and how human beings grow old along with all other living things has been opened because one scientist gave serious attention to what most scientists would consider a wife's tale.

A common idea but a most unscientific idea is that you can pick out people who look younger or older than they are actually — in years. The scientists would say you might with a very few people but you couldn't do it with consistent accuracy with a large number.

But the one scientist has proved that you can. Furthermore, he has proved it goes for the insides of people as well as their outsides. Examining x-rays of lungs (without having seen their owners) he picked out the people who, on the outside, looked younger or older than they were.

Hopes for Further Research

The scientist, Dr. F. A. Nash, communicated his discovery to the American Geriatric society with the idea of stimulating as many scientists as possible into following up its leads. All sorts of things are involved in the rates at which people age.

Ancestors for instance. People live longer whose ancestors had long lives, generally speaking. Occupation is another. Farmers (again generally speaking) have longer lives than miners. You could go right on through a long list.

Now there is a way of checking off the items on the list one by one suggested. Take people who are proved to look younger or older than their years, both on the inside and outside. Then investigate their ancestry, their occupations, their ways of living, and everything else about them which might explain why they've aged less rapidly or more rapidly than the average person.

To show what he meant, Nash described his own investigation of the possibility that people who consistently sleep eight hours or more every night age less rapidly than people who as consistently cut down on their sleep. In this case he found no significant differences.

Nash is operating a mass x-ray survey in London. The people who report to get their lungs x-rayed, first give their names and ages to a clerk. In his experiment Nash stationed two observers in far corners of the room, where they could see the people but could not hear them give their ages. Nor could the observers communicate with one another.

Their task was "guess" the age of each person, state whether in their opinion, that person looked younger or older than he was, and, if so, by how many years. There were 259 persons involved, 15 to 70 years old; 188 males, 71 females. Not only did the observers agree with one another; their "guesses" were accurate to within a few percentage points.

Nash, never saw the subjects. He saw only the x-rays of their lungs. Having read

over 500,000 x-rays, he can be considered an expert. His estimates of age-in-years and whether those x-rayed looked "younger," or "older" were almost as accurate as the estimates of the outside observers.

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