

Schools Show Improvement — Slowly But Steadily

Miss Primrose, average American teacher, is braced for her annual autumn shock. She is about to walk into her average classroom at Middletown Grade School and assume charge of her 30 students—part of the nation's grade and high school population of 36 million.

In all of her 45 years, she hasn't seen such a crowded school. Ever

since her school district abolished one-room schools in favor of the larger consolidated variety, she hasn't seen such a crowd.



Her room is Number Six in a row of 19 crowded rooms. She will teach from the same blackboard using the same worn erasers she has used for years. She wishes she had more modern study aids, but her school district just can't afford them on the present education appropriations.

Her school could use more space. It could use more teachers. She

could use a higher salary than her yearly \$2816. There is a need for equipment. She would like to see her children have psychological



guidance and medical care over and above what she can give them in the classroom.

She sighs and thinks of the bright ray in the bleak picture. She is grateful for the increasing interest of the parents in the school. She is grateful for the larger crowds at the PTA meetings and for the many eager mothers and fathers who frequently consult with her.

As she enters her room and greets the new crop of students for the first time, her practiced eye runs across the class.

The wide-eyed girls are sitting there, neatly dressed in their wool skirts and clean blouses. And the boys are squirming in their seats, some in blue jeans, others in regular long trousers and jerseys.

She can see the usual crop of readers, mathematicians, scientific minds, and other diverse interests. She wishes that there could be individual guidance and more concentrated instruction for each one of these children, so full of dormant potential. But there are so many children and so few teachers and counselors.

She is grateful for many extra-

curricular developments: for the parents who are watching what their children read; for the homes with a place set aside to study;



for the proper lighting in that home study corner.

Her eye runs along the neatly placed row of gleaming lunch boxes set at the back of the room. She knows that nutrition-minded parents are packing more meals and greens than ever before.

She thinks of the signs on the street outside the school reading "Blow . . . we love our children." And she is grateful for the well-marked white-lined crosswalks, policed by student monitors, that make it safe for her children to cross the streets. The well-policed playground with its safeguards for happy recreational hours are a step beyond the days of too many skinned knees and bleeding head gashes.

But, when something does go

wrong, she knows that there is first aid equipment available. She only wishes that her school had a dispensary with a trained nurse like some of the larger buildings. She hopes that her health-and safety-minded community will provide for this one day soon.

Miss Primrose looks down at her somewhat battered desk and sees the notation that a speaker from the library will deliver her first talk of the semester on Wednesday. The increased emphasis by the community on culture, both in the school and out, makes her think of the days not so long ago when there wasn't much such opportunity available.

Every aspect of the students' life, both in their homes and at school, interests her. She knows that it all fits into a pattern that makes for a better student and a well-adjusted young person.

Fine food, clean and comfortable clothes, adequate medical care, proper safety measures, and proper home study aids all fit together to make it easier for her to mold these children into successful, happy young men and women.



'Dance' Need Not Be Horrid Word To Children

Parents who look back on dancing school as one long series of "afternoons" may be inclined to want to bypass the whole affair when their own kids get to that age.

Yet graily as the memory is to many adults—little boys who clomp down on sore feet, girls whose waistslines come neatly to a boy's eye level—they realize that not knowing how to dance can be even a greater liability than the traumatic afternoons under the knife-like eye of Miss Hands-in-Hips.

Fortunately, modern educators have come a long way in learning how to avoid experiences that make one want to fade into the potted palms.

Dancing these days is being in after-school play group and Brownie troop programs. It starts early, sometimes even in kindergarten, with circle dances. This way, the transition to the polished floor and taffeta sash affairs is gradual and not such a shock to the pre-adolescent system.

According to Mrs. Malvena Tatz, Director of Dance at the University of Pennsylvania, the results are good.

"Participation in dance at an early stage helps develop poise and confidence in the youngsters," Mrs. Tatz says. "It gives them coordination and preparation for social dancing."

"Too often children are plunged into social dance experience at a stage of development when they feel most awkward and insecure," Mrs. Tatz goes on. "Anxieties and painful social experiences can often be avoided by gradual orientation through creative and folk dance experiences."

To group leaders or others who

work with young children where dancing might be helpful, Mrs. Tatz offers this advice: "Dance should cover a wide range from development of body skills, rhythmic analysis and dramatic



BROWNIE SCOUTS ENJOY dancing after school, but they're also learning co-ordination, rhythm and teamwork at the same time. This is the kind of activity that helps younger kids learn turn-taking without tears. Record player supplies music.

improvisations to simple folk dances adapted to the age group of the children."

She also offers these practical tips for those who want to adopt the dance as a troop or club project:

1. Clap the rhythm of the dances and identify the meter.
2. Read up on the background of the dances to make them more interesting to the children so that they will know their nationality, period and costume.
3. Make up a "dance story" which would include the folk dance.
4. Have the more interested youngsters create "variations" on the folk dances, mixing them with their own expressive movements and "tricks," such as turns and acrobatics.

To those who see a practical pitfall in trying to hunt up a mother or interested person who can pound the piano, there is an answer.

A tape recorder may possibly be borrowed. This can be used to tape suitable music from the radio or from a local piano teacher. For an even lower budget investment, a small portable record player, one such as Philco makes, and a collection of folk and ethnic records can supply highly satisfactory music.

Glamor-Glitter Sparks Teen-Age School Costumes— Costume Jewelry Has Lasting Charm



SCHOOL-AGE jewelry news notes are: top left, Prims buttons with pail pictures; top right, dull finish topaz plastic beads and earrings by Volupte; bottom, left, Coro's huge disk necklace and earrings; bottom right, Hamilton's watch with alligator strap.

Fashions in clothes to a large extent dictate fashions in jewelry. And this fall, school fashions for teen-agers call for more jewelry.

The Jewelry Industry Council points to the popularity of French cuffs for men and of neat, man-tailored shirts for women. Both of these styles mean cuff links in wide variety for back-to-schoolers. Cuff links for young ladies in many cases include matching earrings and cameo pins. The bar pins or brooches provide the finishing touches to the shirtwaist fashions.

Plastic beads in popular pastels, like Volupte's, with earrings that match, are high style for the tunic and sheath fashions that need a touch of texture and gleam to complete them.

Overgrown jewelry for understated women's styles is a news note this fall, too. Long beads or tremendous disk necklaces and earrings, like Coro's, have great interest for wear with the smooth look.

Watches, of course, are the basis of the jewelry wardrobe of most teen-agers. Many are graduation and birthday presents. But many other children will buy watches with their summer savings to start the school year off on time. Good news for youngsters planning such an investment are two new watches just introduced by the Bulova company. One for men and one for women, they are both budget-priced for a 17-jewel movement.

Watch bracelets are also coming in for great interest. Many teen girls who own a larger watch dress it up with a dress-up watch strap for parties and use a more practical one when going to class.

Charm bracelets have their perennial appeal to school girls. The more jingle and jangle the better. Many young ladies have been building bunchy charm bracelets over birthdays for many years. A suitable charm might celebrate entrance into the senior year or a scholarship.

Druggists Sell Academic Aids

A typical thought-wave from mothers on the opening day of school:

"My, don't the children look nice today! Now if only they'd manage to stay that clean all the rest of the year . . ."

That, of course, is too much to hope for. As the term gets going full blast, the freshly-starched look of opening day is certain to disappear.

But the battle to teach good grooming does not have to be a loss. And the mother who plans to win it will see that her basic arsenal — the bathroom toiletries shelf — always is well supplied.

An extra stock of toothpaste, for instance, will take care of sudden shortages, and serve as a daily reminder that the child must care for his teeth. Deodorants, lotions and powders, kept where they're always in sight, will also joggle his memory.



ORAL hygiene is taught in many schools, but Sis needs tools like dental floss at home to encourage good habits.

One Necessity Is Dental Exam

A word in the wise parents of children returning to school.

A recent survey by the American Dental Association showed that the teeth of boys and girls between the ages of five and 19—the school years—require more fillings than any other. The peak of decay occurs during the high school period.

This indicates clearly that the care which their teeth get now will determine, to large extent, their dental health for the rest of their lives. It's up to you to see that it's good.

The first step to take before a child starts schoolward is to have a dentist give his teeth a thorough examination.

By using some simple psychology, parents can convince their children before the first visit that the dentist is a friend, and the short time spent in his office will not be unpleasant. Once this mood is established, subsequent regular checkups will not present a problem.

VARIETY'S THE SPICE

Sandwiches can be nutritious, filling fare for a carried school lunch. But as a steady diet, they can bore a child. Fry out-of-of-hand foods like a piece of chicken or turkey. Try chili or beans in a wide-mouthed vacuum bottle. DO break up the monotony.

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