

EDUCATIONAL BRIEFS

As a step toward living down the charge that we are "a Nation of sixth graders," many States have passed laws requiring children to remain in school until they have finished the eighth grade, or until they have reached the age of 16. Kansas and Wyoming have recently added this requirement to their laws. In both of these States the child-labor law was amended to provide that a child must not be employed until he has reached the age of 14 and has completed the eighth grade at school. Between the ages of 14 and 16 a child may work at certain occupations if he has been granted a work permit. This permit will be granted only to pupils who have completed the first eight grades.

Children younger than 16 who have not completed the eighth grade must be kept in school by their parents under penalty of the law. In Wyoming the county superintendents have been authorized to act as truant officers, and their salaries were raised to compensate them for the new duties. The superintendent of schools in a first-class county will receive \$800 a year more for acting as truant officer.

Under the work-study-play plan recommended for the Portland (Ore.) schools by the United States Bureau of Education the building program will cost only half as much as under the "traditional" plan and at the same time will give a capacity for 2,160 more children than under the traditional plan, and also will provide more than 300 special activity rooms in addition to classrooms, manual-training rooms, cooking and sewing rooms. This space, under the traditional plan, has to be used for classrooms, since every child has to have a reserved seat which no other child may use. This means that there must be as many classrooms as there are teachers. Under the work-study-play plan, however, as only half the total number of classes is in classrooms at one time while the other half of the school is working and playing in auditoriums, gymnasiums, and special activity rooms, only half as many classrooms have to be provided.

These recommendations were based upon a school-building survey of the Portland schools, under the supervision of Miss Alice E. Barrows, specialist in industrial and economic relations, United States Bureau of Education.

Kindergarten specialists of the United States Bureau of Education have been asked to recommend two kindergarten training teachers for missionary work in India. The kindergarten is considered a valuable agency in mission work and 10 training schools have been established in China, India, and Japan for the training of native kindergarten teachers.

More teachers will be needed in the high and normal schools of the Philippines in the spring of 1925, according to a recent announcement made by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, Washington. Porto Rico needs teachers immediately for upper grammar grades and high schools.

A new college for women is to be established at Bennington, Vt. In its organization an attempt will be made to economize time and expenses of students. By eliminating long vacations both at Christmas and during the summer the founders hope to help students in three years to meet all the requirements for a regular college degree.

Need of common standards of civic righteousness, public health, and family life is stressed in a circular recently issued by the United States Bureau of Education entitled "Parent-Teacher Associations and Foreign-Born Women." It analyzes the problem and contains valuable suggestions for helping foreign-born women to adopt higher standards of living.

Malnutrition cases in the elementary schools of Bridgeport, Conn., show a decrease of almost 33 per cent between the years 1921-22 and 1923-24. This progress is attributed to health education training and instruction for malnourished children.