

Problems of Quality in the Colleges

Once when the colleges were small there were intimate relations between students and faculty. Students were few. Famous teachers surrounded by their books gave individual attention to a small group. Research was attacked together; interpretation was made incidentally; great scholars were the inspiration; great scholars were the result. As a general thing these times are past. Now the colleges have thousands of students, huge buildings, multiplicity of offerings, and a variety of departments. Professors mourn the days that are gone and the temptation is to try to bring back former conditions. But the commitments are here. Students make their demands. Sheer numbers force a change. In occasional subjects such as anthropology or astronomy the old methods are still possible; but for most subjects they are out of the question. The conference becomes a lecture course. What was formerly personal advice is now a printed syllabus. Some of the research guidance is given in a class; and the library, formerly the workroom, the meeting room, the research laboratory, and the classroom, tends to become a collection of books, housed in a separate building, upon the campus to be sure, but in no sense holding the intimate and integral relation to the life of the institution that once it held. The colleges are not remaining static. Despite the fact that some are strictly limiting attendance, there are many that are trying to improve their methods the better to adjust themselves for numbers. There is no part of our educational system in which so many changes are being made and so many new ideas being introduced.

Thus the school and the college as we find them are already making efforts toward quantity production in response to the demand that many be educated. They are modifying their procedures so that many may be educated better. By giving quality in quantity they are serving the interests of

economy; but the persistent demands for extended facilities, the criticism of American standards, and the call for reduced expenditures indicate that the problem is not yet solved and that much remains to be done.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for the Position of Division Superintendent of Schools

All those engaged in school work, who are interested in the position of division superintendent of schools, should note carefully the following communication which has been sent to Virginia school superintendents by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction:

"As you know, of course, superintendents are to be appointed next spring within thirty days prior to April 1st by the county school boards from a list of eligibles prepared by the State Board of Education. In forming this list of eligibles the State Board desires to learn what superintendents now engaged in the various school divisions desire to be put upon the list and thereby to be made eligible for reappointment.

"All present superintendents who meet eligibility requirements or whose record is quite satisfactory, even though requirements may not be met, will be placed upon the list. In addition, new applicants whose qualifications are beyond question will have their names recorded.

"All applications should be on file in the Department of Education by January 14, 1929, for review by the State Board of Education at its regular meeting on January 15th. No application for eligibility can be considered after February 1, 1929.

"In order to bring the information strictly up to date, superintendents applying for reappointment are requested to fill in two copies of the application blank herewith en-

closed. In order to make proper tabulations at once, I am requesting that these blanks be returned to the Department by December 20, 1928."

Eligible List of Division Superintendents

METHOD OF PLACEMENT

All applicants for position of division superintendent will make application to the State Department of Education for appropriate blanks. These will be promptly sent to the applicants and when properly filled out and returned will be assessed in accordance with minimum qualifications. If the applicant meet beyond question all qualifications, his name is placed on the eligible list to be certified to county and city school boards.

Appointments are to be made by county and city school boards within thirty days prior to April first from a list of eligibles approved by the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education will hold a meeting on January 15, 1929, to finally approve the eligible list. All applicants should file their papers not later than January 12th. In no circumstance can an application be approved if not filed before February first.

A complete list of all names of eligible candidates will be sent to the chairman of each county and city school board. This list will give the name, the degree, the years of experience and the address of each applicant. School boards may on application to the Department of Education receive copies of the full application form for those candidates in whom the Board is particularly interested.

Minimum Requirements for Eligible List of Division Superintendents

1. Graduation from a standard four-year college with at least fifteen hours in professional training, and two years of practical experience as school principal or supervisor, or five years' experience as a teacher; or

2. Graduation from a standard four-

year college with degree of B. S. or A. B., with four years' experience as school principal or supervisor, or six years' experience as a teacher; and

3. General administrative ability as evidenced by practical experience, as business, or in the business administration of education.

4. The college training or experience of the applicant shall have been within a period of ten years from the date of the application for a superintendency.

DABNEY S. LANCASTER

SCHOOLROOM HUMOR

EDUCATION NO LONGER NECESSARY

Truant Officer: "Why haven't you sent your son Johnny to school? Don't you want him to learn to read?"

Proud Father: "It hain't necessary now that we have the talking movies."

THAT EXPLAINED IT

A bookseller sent a bill to a certain customer for a book. The customer replied: "I did not order the book. If I did, you didn't send it. If you sent it I didn't receive it. If I did, I paid for it. If I didn't, I won't."

STAYING ALONG WITH THE FOLKS

"Have you studied elocution?"

"No," answered Senator Sorghum. "I'm afraid that if I began to show off any arts of grammar and rhetoric the neighbors out my way might think I was trying to put on airs."—*Washington Star*.

AN OPTIMIST

Father: "Aren't you ashamed to be at the bottom in a class of twenty-eight boys?"

Willie: "Oh, that's not so bad."

Father: "What do you mean, not so bad?"

Willie: "Suppose there were fifty boys."

—*Kablegram*.