

### Hill Center Replaces Birch Rod Today In Birmingham Public School System

"We think in terms of the future of the Hill Center," said Howard D. Crull, superintendent of schools, explaining the Center's effort to enable school children of today to become tomorrow's fine citizens. Hill Center is an organization devoted to the principle that a child can obtain the benefits of the education offered him only if he enjoys the acme of mental as well as physical health.

The birch rod is no longer considered a cure for poor marks, for lack of interest in the classroom or for an unfriendly attitude toward other children, Mr. Crull pointed out. At Hill Center the child is treated with friendly and sympathetic attention in an effort to understand why he finds school a difficult and unpleasant task rather than an agreeable and interesting experience.

"When a boy or girl stays away from school repeatedly, when a child whom we believe has good native ability does poor work, or a child with apparently limited ability does not do the work which he is able to accomplish, he is sometimes referred to the Center. Children who have behavior problems in school as well as reading difficulties are also among those referred to the Center," explained Mr. Crull.

The very first step the Center takes is to make sure that no physical defect, such as poor teeth, poor eyesight, poor hearing, or any toxic condition, causes the child trouble.

Once he is known to be in good health, he is usually given an intelligence test to determine the amount of work he can be expected to accomplish. This test acts as a check upon a previous intelligence test given to all public school students. A psychological test is also given to discover, if possible, the reason for his difficulty in adjusting to the school environment.

After the tests have been intelligently interpreted to the principle, to the teacher, and to the parents of the child, the work of the Center is by no means complete, Mr. Crull pointed out.

A most important part of the Center's work is the effort made to eliminate the disturbing factors in the child's life which are hindering his progress in school. Diagnosis of the child's difficulties would be almost valueless without the special effort the Center makes to help him remove the cause of his trouble.

A number of desirable ways to give child constructive help are open to the Center. Friendly counsels and interviews with the child frequently are helpful. If, for example, his difficulty is an unusual inferior feeling regarding his ability, the results of his intelligence test might be carefully explained to him, said Mr. Crull.

plained to him, said Mr. Crull. The child is made to understand that his feeling of inferiority is unfounded, and his parents and teachers co-operate with the Center to encourage him in his work and praise his sincere efforts to overcome his difficulties.

"Study is only one aspect of education," Mr. Crull carefully pointed out. "John Dewey believes that progress in education is the development of new attitudes toward new interests and experiences," and at the Center every one will like to have for neighbors.

"Today the home is shifting many responsibilities to the school," Mr. Crull continued, "and the school must be prepared to accept them and help solve the thousands of baffling problems confronting both parents and children."

The success of the Center depends upon close co-operation of teachers, parents, and the Center staff, quite as much as upon theories of child training, in Mr. Crull's opinion.

Before the establishment of Hill Center during the school year of 1937-38, the Board of Education depended upon the Children's Center in Detroit for assistance in adjusting a child's difficulties in school. In the spring of 1937, Mr. Crull applied to the Children's Fund of Michigan for aid in setting up an independent center in Birmingham. The following fall Hill Center was established and assigned the services of a competent director, psychologist and social worker by the Children's Center, Mrs. Elizabeth Penberthy is the director at Hill Center, assisted by Miss Esther Belcher and Miss Margaret Lambodie. The staff is connected with the Children's Center in Detroit, which is directed by Dr. Maud Watson. They come to Birmingham each of the five days to conduct the work of the Center.

—But Is Wasn't Pop  
Berrien Springs—A pop bottle looked pretty tempting to Donald Karn, 9, of Eau Claire, so he picked it up and swallowed a long, delicious drink. But it wasn't pop—it was spray, and commonly used to kill plant bugs. Under the treatment of a physician, Donald recovered.

Still Taller Corn  
Jonesville—A contest in Michigan among farmers to see who can raise the tallest corn might not be surprising, if this fall's specimens are considered. Top ranker now is a 15-foot stalk grown by Art Wells, and bearing six ears.

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### General Election Notice

To the qualified electors of the City of Birmingham, County of Oakland, State of Michigan.

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Birmingham, in the County of Oakland and State of Michigan, on

**Tuesday, November 8, 1938**

from seven o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time for the purpose of electing the following officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Auditor General, Representative in Congress, State Senator, Representative in State Legislature, Judge of Probate (to fill vacancy), Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Circuit Court Commissioner, Drain Commissioner, Coroners, County Surveyor, and to vote on the following propositions:

I. Amendment to Sections 3 and 5 of Article VIII of the Constitution relative to extending the term of office of Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and Register of Deeds to four years.

II. Amendment to Section 2 of Article VII of the Constitution providing for the appointment of Justices of the Supreme Court.

III. Amendment to Article X of the Constitution by adding Section twenty-two relative to preventing the diversion of highway revenues.

IV. Question of the adoption or rejection of Act No. 257 of the Public Acts of 1937. (Transfer of the administration of certain existing state public welfare and relief matters, services and duties to the State Department of Public Assistance created by said act.)

Said election will be held at the following polling places:  
PRECINCT NO. 1—Voting Booth at the Quarton School.

PRECINCT NO. 2—Voting Booth at the Adams School.

PRECINCT NO. 3—Voting Booth at the Municipal Building.

PRECINCT NO. 4—Voting Booth at Bell Funeral Home, Side Entrance (Corner Maple and Elm).

PRECINCT NO. 5—Voting Booth at Pierce School.

IRENE E. HANLEY,  
City Clerk

October 27, 1938



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