

CRULL

(Continued from Page One)

ual should be studied with the hope that growth can be more positive than when development and progress is placed on the group basis.

The educational philosophy on which the schools of Birmingham operate, involves the social concept of education and the approach is one of co-operative endeavor. If students can be encouraged in the wide participation, the planning, the execution and final appraisal of school activities, certainly the outcome will be more far reaching than those entirely teacher directed or teacher dominated.

It is the responsibility of the schools to offer opportunities for growth to every pupil enrolled, regardless of what his future may be after high school graduation. Indeed, some pupils find it necessary to leave school before completion of the 12th grade and in such cases, these students should take with them every possible bit of training the public schools have in order that their future might be as profitable and as pleasant as possible.

Teachers in the local public schools are constantly alert for changing concepts in public school education. This can best be borne

out by the fact that 37 of our 90 teachers have been enrolled in either Summer School Work or In-Service Training since the conclusion of the 1938-1939 school year. This, in itself, shows the attitude of the Birmingham teaching staff towards their work and as teachers their responsibility.

CURRICULAR STUDY: During the present year several committees of teachers have been active in the study of our curricula. Early in the school year our secondary schools became affiliated with the Michigan Secondary School Curriculum Study, being directed by the State Department of Public Instruction. Our school was one of 35 associated schools to work with the Department of Public Instruction on this problem. The general purpose of the study was to discover, to evaluate and to develop a desirable modification in the instruction program of the high school in order to provide the best possible type of education that today's high school students need; both those who are and those who are not going to college. It is estimated that it will take 12 years to complete the entire study.

One of the objectives of this year has been the careful planning of each individual teacher's objective so far as subject matter which she is called upon to teach is concerned. Numerous meetings have been held, not only with the staff, but with other schools working on this problem, and suffice it to say, progress has been made.

Student Personnel Work: Another important part of the curricular study in the high school has been the accomplishment in student personnel work. Vocational interest tests, personality inventories, tests on mental ability and social adjustment tests have been administered to pupils in the 11th and 12th grades. These have been carried on as a part of the secondary school curriculum study. Some handicap has been experienced through lack of staff, but generally it is evident that a great deal of worthwhile outcomes have been provided, especially for the students who still have a semester or more left in their high school career.

Several teachers, by request, have granted interviews with the students after the tests had been given in order that a better school adjustment might be made. In fact, many parents have come to the school for interviews concerning the outcomes of results of tests of certain pupils.

It is our feeling that a scientific program of procedure which includes standardized tests is one of the surest and wisest ways of determining deficiencies or other

Field trips are planned so that pupils may have first hand experience in the subject matter which they are studying.

This picture shows a portion of a group of Junior High School students on a natural science field trip.

—Photo Adams Camera Club.

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maadjustments so that these inadequacies may be met before it is too late.

Progress in Elementary School: In the elementary school two fields have been studied this year by committees of teachers, with the result that a complete outline was worked out for elementary school work in grades 1 through 6. This has been accomplished, and suitable textbooks and supplementary materials have been made available for use in these grades. This is the result of two years work in this field and is definitely a progressive movement so far as the elementary school curriculum is concerned.

Another field that has been studied is the field of physical education. It provides opportunity for curricular enrichment, for the accelerated students, and offers opportunity in other cases for remedial work where the subject matter is not understood. It also offers definite advantages in instructional procedure, especially in the study of mathematics.

SAFETY EDUCATION: According to the best authorities in the field, Safety Education should be integrated with various fields of instruction rather than set apart as a separate course of study. It is also desirable that Safety Education be so administered as to make safety practice a daily life an integral part of living, rather than to instill in-



Early in the school life of the child, working independently at least for a portion of the time is stressed. Here we see a group of primary children busy with the teacher on an interesting assignment.

studied is the elementary school language in grades 3 through 8. Texts and supplementary materials have been purchased to provide a more adequate school experience for the child in this work.

In the Junior and Senior School, committees have been busy revising course content and instructional procedure in the fields of industrial education, science, high school English and literature, senior high school social studies and junior high school social studies and art education.

Change in Shop Procedure: In the case of the field of industrial education, a considerable change has been effected in shop procedures as an outcome of the two year study conducted by the committee composed of manual arts teachers of the system. While the offerings in this particular field are still below what the future may be able to produce, progress is being made in desirable changes in this work, particularly towards development of general shop work.

UNITS OF WORK: Not infrequently instruction based upon large units of work is planned by class room teachers. In fact, some of the units so selected this year have received recognition through publication in professional magazines.

In the November 1938 issue of THE INSTRUCTOR an article entitled "A Book Week Activity" was written by Miss Eleanor Haack, a teacher in the Adams Elementary School. Besides this unit of work, several others have been developed throughout the year. Among these are such units as "The Zoo," "Our Neighbors to the South," "Unit on the Postoffice," "The Story of Cotton," "Weather," "Time," and a social science unit of work entitled "The Children of China."

Child is Encouraged: In many of the units, with units of this type, the child is the one about whom the procedure revolves. He is encouraged to help with the planning and progress of the unit. This procedure takes into account individual pupil ap-

petitions and interests. It provides opportunity for curricular enrichment, for the accelerated students, and offers opportunity in other cases for remedial work where the subject matter is not understood. It also offers definite advantages in instructional procedure, especially in the study of mathematics.

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—Photo Baldwin Photography Club.

Here we see a group of Senior High School students busily engaged in their individual projects in art work. A room was specially constructed this school year in the old Hill School, which was necessary because of the increased enrollment at the Baldwin High School.

students participating in the program in which the main theme was safety.

STANDARDIZED TESTS: During the year a program of testing, to the extent that the finances would permit, was carried on in the Elementary Schools. The Kuhlman Anderson Unit Scales of Attainment were administered in December 1938. The results of these tests were, so far as the entire school system was concerned, most gratifying. We found that the tests, with few exceptions, showed that the students had an average of the author's standard for the grade in which tests were given.

Individual Pupil Analysis: However, the greatest value of the testing program does not lie here. The real value the individual pupil analysis. If the results of each pupil's tests were carefully analyzed by the teachers, the deficiency which the test reveals in individual cases can be traced to its source and remedied work with the individual pupil. Here lies the great value of the standardized testing program. If the subject matter of attainment are administered annually, it will be easy to determine pupil growth in the subject matter of the test through a comparison of the results. It is hoped that when finances permit a plan of re-testing program may be developed.

HEALTH EDUCATION: Classes in physical education have been carried on during the year in grades 7, 8 and 9 with as much time devoted to this work in the school as to any other. The work with the limited staff available for physical education work.

Also, a strong intramural program is in operation which permits seasonal athletic activities in the afternoon following the regular school day. Groups are divided according to weights and ages and competition in these groups is carried on.

In the major activities such as basketball, soft ball, track, and volleyball, an average of 75% of the school participate. It is generally considered that an excellent program for junior high schools, particularly for an interschool competition. With this in mind, a sports program of this type has been developed in the Birmingham Public Schools.

Hold All-City Track Meet: At the annual sports program of the Birmingham Public Schools, the three Junior High Schools usually participate in a round robin elimination to determine the city champion. The eighth annual all city Junior High School track meet was held in the spring of this year.

In May 1938, the Board of Education took steps to provide for the construction of a new indoor track at the Pierce Athletic Field. This track was completed in the early part of the year 1939 and was officially dedicated by the Board of Education on the 15th of May.

This addition to our Athletic Field is the result of a long felt need.

Birmingham, for several years, has had very successful intraschool track teams. It is hoped that the new track will provide an opportunity for the development of track athletes due to this new and valuable addition to our athletic field.

We might state here that the student body of the Junior and Senior High Schools have been particularly interested in the development of this new project and have been actively participating through their student councils and Senior High School student congress \$1.50 toward the expense of the construction. The track team amount to be paid by the students through their own efforts in three years it is estimated will amount to date \$750 of the \$1,500 obligation has been cared for by the student group through grants administered to members of the club and the results of the test discussed by the group. This proved one of the most popular club meeting during the activity period.

Safe Drivers Club: In the Senior High School, because of the fact that many students operate motor vehicles, it seemed desirable to accept the suggestion of a group of students that the Safe Drivers Club be organized as a part of the extra curricular program in the school. Through necessity, the membership in this club was limited to pupils who had motor vehicle operator's license.

During the meetings of this club, a great deal of time was devoted to discussions of safe driving practice and general safety in motor car operation. Because of the nature wide movement in safety education of the motor vehicle, there is a great deal of material available for instructional purposes. The American Automobile Association has been particularly alert to this problem and has a great deal of material available on the subject.

Standardized tests dealing with safety were administered to members of the club and the results of the test discussed by the group. This proved one of the most popular club meeting during the activity period.

HILL CENTER: Perhaps one of the most far reaching services rendered to the children of the local public schools is the diagnostic and consulting facilities provided at Hill Center for work in the field of mental hygiene. The Children's Center of Detroit, co-operating with the local Board of Education, have established a clinic for this work with offices in the Board of Education Building.

Thousands of working class children from the local public schools were referred to the Center for assistance. Often children who are unable to meet class room requirements in the school are found to be mentally inefficient, but for some reason which only analysis of this type will reveal, are unable to make normal progress. In several in-

stances workers from the Hill Center have been able to discover the child's mental disturbance in a short time develop the child into a normal individual, with the result that the child's school work and attitude towards their fellow students was greatly improved, and every one, including the parents, were much gratified.

Teachers are constantly improving in the technique of observing pupils who need this particular attention, and principals working with the teachers have developed a referred technique which will, in the future, tend to assist the workers at the center in securing pertinent data.

Miss Elizabeth Penberthy has been the director in charge, assisted by Miss Belcher, psychologist, Miss Lahabue, Miss Lindgren and Mr. Hartley as consultants. This service is carried on on days each week with special consultations periodically between the regular scheduled office work.

HEALTH: Items of interest from the annual report of the school nurse reveal that this work is being carried on effectively. The prime interest of the nurse is the promotion of sound physical fitness for all pupils. In this respect, and in line of our general home care have been made this school year; 1,136 vision tests were administered to pupils. Such work as checking of communicable diseases, planning for the work of the dental clinic conducted through the cooperation of the Birmingham Exchange Club, Vision Clinic sponsored by the Lions Club of Birmingham, and the National Youth Association Employment in the schools and social work have kept this department of the school busy throughout the year.

VISUAL EDUCATION: Our greatest source of valuable visual

features are and selected to correlate with subject matter of different levels. Buildings are equipped with projection equipment available for every teacher's use.

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS: School assembly programs have shown a consistent improvement both in planning and in execution. Few assemblies were given without pupil planning and a good percentage showed pupil participation.

These features were given with best procedures in the administration of school assemblies. In the Baldwin High School a committee of pupils known as the Assembly Committee worked with a faculty advisor in planning the entire series of assemblies for the year for that school.

FIELD TRIPS: Field trips are coming more and more to be recognized as having definite educational value. This is true because the pupil, through such trips, comes into contact with material which otherwise might not be possible. In the elementary schools, field trips to the farm, to the public library, to the fire station, to the office, telephone exchange and the Zoo are frequent. In the secondary schools, trips to the Cranbrook Institute of Science, to a newspaper plant, to a session of court and other similar trips of educational value. Such trips are motivated by proper discussion, planning, and are discussed following the actual excursion.

MUSIC: Instrumental and vocal music work has been carried on this year on the same basis as in the past few years. Formal instruction in vocal music is given in the elementary school in grades 4, 5, and 6. Opportunity is also provided for pupils desiring to elect instrumental music in these grades to participate in elementary school instrumental music.

Chorus work is offered in the junior high schools one day each week with three days weekly devoted to vocal music in the Baldwin High School. Instrumental music is likewise offered as an elective in the junior high schools. Opportunity is provided for group and ensemble work. In the senior high school the band, as well as the orchestra, have enjoyed considerable popularity with the student body.

Through the efforts of a Citizens' Committee, a substantial amount of money was provided this year with which to purchase new band uniforms. These were a welcome addition and materially improved the appearance of this organization. The Band has appeared on numerous occasions throughout the year at the request of community organizations as

well as playing at many school functions. The all-city spring instrumental music festival was given by the Baldwin High School in the spring of 1939. The senior high school presented the opera "H. M. S. Pinafore" during the spring. On Monday evening, April 24, the Baldwin High School A Cappella Choir rendered a delightful program under the direction of Victor Ulrich, vocal music instructor.

ADULT EDUCATION: During the year, classes in various phases of adult education have been sponsored by the Board of Education and carried on during afternoons and evenings. Community College courses in Home making were sponsored through the first semester. Work because of changes in regulations of this work, the classes had to be suspended.

Two courses in Distributive Education were offered during the winter. These courses were planned in order of particular assistance to merchants.

Classes in typing, shorthand, Dramatics and Public Speaking have proved popular with many adults during the winter. Perhaps one of the most significant services offered through the cooperation of the Federal Government and the University of Michigan is the Correspondence Study Work. Persons may complete up to thirty hours credit at the University through correspondence study work. Over two hundred are enrolled in this work from our community. Part of the enrollment represents adults while in some instances high school freshmen credit in this manner.

FINANCE: In studying the budget for the 1938-39 school year, some problems of non-compliance were presented themselves. State Aid for schools was reduced in order that the state conform to state revenues. The amount received from the state was 37.8% (Continued on Page 7, Part 1)

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of School District No. 1 Fractional of the Townships of Bloomfield, Troy, Royal Oak and Southfield, Oakland County, Michigan, for the purpose of receiving the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before it, will be held in the Baldwin High School Building, Birmingham, Michigan, at 8:00 o'clock P. M. Monday, the 10th day of July, 1939.

Signed: WM. A. DALEE, Secretary

Dated: June 27, 1939

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