

20% of Pupils Have Eye Defects

Mrs. Josephine Wharrf, a registered nurse with the Birmingham public schools, attended the refresher conference sponsored by the Michigan department of health in June at Waldenwoods. Some of the points of interest she reported were:

"We must be concerned with the total health of the child. This begins with the pre-natal care of the mother and through a complete life cycle.

The health of the mother and father and the ability to produce normal healthy children depends upon their own health all through life, from early infancy on. Therefore, we must concentrate on all age groups.

"Twenty percent of our children in Michigan have visual defects. This may be due to poor nutrition, premature birth, inheritance, or accidents.

"MANY CHILDREN have eye defects when they start school, which are discovered in the school screening. By the time the child is six or seven, these defects often times cannot be corrected. Or, if they can be, the treatment is costly.

This, then, suggests pre-school screening at age 3 or 4 by either a trained vision technician or ophthalmologist. Most defects at this time can be put under treatment. The sooner these are discovered, the better the child's sight will be.

"Good vision is important in both eyes. Accidents to the eyes usually seem to occur in the good eye.

"We are better able to see danger all around us. Some places of employment will not hire people with vision in only one eye."

SUGGESTED screening procedure:

- 1) Vision technician do all initial

- 2) Capable parents trained to do initial testing with the nurse re-testing and making all referrals.

- 3) Send letter home before initial testing, stating testing date and if child wears glasses when he had his last eye examination.

- 4) Send referral card home with

referred child for Doctor to sign. Important to test for quality, rather than quantity.

TO AID PARENTS in obtaining proper testing and treatment for youngsters, Mrs. Wharrf passed along definitions of the various types of eye specialists:

Ophthalmologist — M. D. with residency of two-four years in specialization in eyes, glasses, surgery, and medicine.

Oculist— M. D. who has not any formal eye training, however, he

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

SCHOOL SECTION—7

It'll Be Half Day For B'field Hills Schools on Sept. 8

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — School starts in the Bloomfield Hills district Thursday, Sept. 8, with a half-day session. Classes on Friday,

treats eyes. Optometrist — Three to four years education in school of optometry to fit eyes for glasses only. Cannot know about diseases of eyes.

Sept. 9, will be the first full day. Thanksgiving holidays are scheduled for Nov. 24 and 25.

Christmas vacation extends from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. The first semester ends Wednesday, Jan. 25. Second semester begins Jan. 30. Elementary school conference day and teachers' workshops will be held between semesters.

Spring vacation starts with Good Friday, March 31, and extends until Monday, April 10.

Classes for the school year close noon, Wednesday, June 14, with commencement exercises scheduled for the following day.

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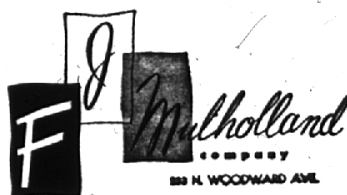


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