

● News Notes

. . . in Elementary Education

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Chairman, ASCD Advisory Council
on Elementary Education

AUTHORIZATION by the Executive Committee of three new task forces brings to six the total number of working groups set up under the direction of the ASCD Advisory Council on Elementary Education.

These task forces and their chairmen are: Primary reading, Thomas Barrett, University of Wisconsin; Educationally neglected, Eleanor Johnson, New Jersey Department of Education; Culturally disadvantaged, Dorothy McGeoch and A. Harry Passow, Teachers College, Columbia University; Preschool programs, Bernard Spodek, University of Illinois; Social studies, John Jarolimek, University of Washington; and Elementary school libraries, Pauline Hilliard, University of Florida.

Each task force is commissioned to prepare a resource paper that may be made available to association members; a time limit of one year has been set for production of each paper.

Standards for Self-Evaluation Developed Cooperatively

Standards for self-evaluation were developed jointly last year in Washington by the Elementary School Prin-

cipals Association and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and were tested out in one region. These standards, according to Robert Groeschell, Director of Elementary Education, will be presented to the Washington ESPA for adoption this fall.

State-Wide Summer Reading Improvement Program

The Georgia State Department of Education, in cooperation with the University of Georgia, sponsored a 1965 summer program of corrective instruction in reading for primary-age children. This program, according to H. V. Bulloch, Chief of the Curriculum Leadership Section of the State Department, involved more than 6000 children taught by nearly 400 teachers.

Greater Cleveland Social Science Program

A new publication, *Handbook for Social Science Teachers*, describes the rationale and lays out the scope and sequence of the K-12 program being developed by the Educational Research Council of Greater Cleveland (Rockefeller Building, Cleveland 13). An item

of note: a series of twelve books written to implement one of the first grade themes, "Discoverers: Land, Sea, Undersea, and Space," is now available in i/t/a as well as t/o! The subjects of the books range from the Norsemen to John Glenn.

Resource Units To Build Self-Respect

Disadvantaged children may think of themselves, for a variety of reasons, in terms that are negative and self-deprecating. With this assumption as a base, Charlotte Meyer reports, the Decatur Public Schools have prepared a series of resource units around these grade themes: kindergarten, "Where Am I?"; first grade, "Who Am I?"; second, "With What Groups Do I Belong?"; third, "How Am I Like People of Other Cultures?"; fourth, "Why Did I Do That?"; fifth, "I Live with Choice"; and sixth, "Where Am I Going?" The units are to be found in *New Curricular Ideas for Helping Children Discover and Fulfill Their Potentialities* (available from Decatur Public Schools Office, 101 West Cerro Gordo, Decatur, Illinois for \$2.50).

Symposium on Children's Language Development

Nita Wyatt reports that the ideas developed at a symposium on children's language development held in mid-November at the University of Kansas will be synthesized in a publication expected to be useful to teachers of both normal and exceptional children. Speakers at the November 18 and 19 conference include: Mildred Templin of the University of Minnesota and Walter Loban of the University of California,

reporting on their studies of developmental patterns; Martin Deutsch of the New York Medical College, discussing environmental influences on language development; and Corinne Kass of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, reporting her work with the Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities.

Seattle Theme Writing Project

Entering its second year in 20 Seattle schools is a grade six Theme Writing Project. Pupils were given two theme tests last year (September and May), with the themes graded in the schools and representative papers selected for further checking by a committee of teachers and English-language arts staff members. The twofold purpose of the program is to reach a greater degree of consistency in criteria for evaluating written work and to dramatize to pupils, staff and parents the importance of written composition. The improvement in the May papers last year, reports Helen F. Olsen, English-language arts consultant, was so marked that all participants wish to continue and expand the program.

North Carolina Math Program To Continue

Elementary teachers in North Carolina, according to Madeline Tripp, will have further opportunities to update their knowledge of mathematics through continuance of the program of televised lessons begun last year by the State Department of Public Instruction. Nearly 9000 teachers participated in the program during its first year. The series was made up of 15 half-hour programs, presented at weekly intervals during after-school hours. Typi-

cally the sessions were presided over by a coordinator with recent acquaintance in mathematics who led the discussion following the televised presentation. The series was available on film to teachers in parts of the state not reached by educational television.

Third-Year Spanish Program To Introduce Reading

"Se Habla y Se Lee Español" is the title of the new third-year television program in Spanish for fifth-graders of the Seattle, Kent, and Pasco school districts, which are cooperating in the sponsorship of the series. The program includes an introduction to reading and provides for a children's notebook with steps in reading development closely related to the television content.

New Ways To Teach Reading

Major innovations in beginning reading are defined briefly yet authoritatively in *Current Approaches to Teaching Reading*, a recent NEA Elementary Instructional Service leaflet edited by Helen Mackintosh. Contributors in-

clude R. V. Allen, Willard Olson, Sir James Pitman, Dorothea Hinman, and Charles C. Fries. (Available from Department of Elementary-Kindergarten-Nursery Education, NEA.)

Workshop in Human Relations

A preschool Human Relations Workshop, reports Mildred Hoyle, was held for 350 teachers and principals of recently desegregated schools in Prince George's County, Maryland. Objective was to help staff members better to understand the problems that might be anticipated as the schools opened in September.

Demonstration Nursery School in Trenton

To show how the nursery school can be of maximum effectiveness in the lives of underprivileged children, the New Jersey Department of Education is opening a demonstration center in one of the Trenton public schools. Anne Hoppock reports that, as the Department and nursery school staffs develop the program, newsletters will be issued to the local districts.

21st Annual ASCD Conference

"Strategy for Curriculum Change" is the theme of the Annual ASCD Conference to be held in San Francisco, March 13-17, 1966. Early registration provides the Conference participant assurance of being assigned to those activities which are of prime interest to him.

If you have received registration forms send them in as soon as possible; if you have not received the registration information, but are interested, write to ASCD, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

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