

(Course 153)

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL GROUP

Time will not allow, nor is this the place for a discussion of the history of our school group. For the purposes of this course it will suffice for us to have in mind the fact that the schools are one of the five basic inherited social institutions; that they cannot and should not be static institutions but responsive to the changing conditions and increasing knowledge of modern life.

The purpose of this section is to present the hygienic potentialities of the schools with a view to familiarizing the student with the fundamentals of a sound school health program. It is hoped that a study of this subject will prepare him to intelligently participate in securing for his children the kind of health training and health instruction that will minister to, rather than lower their health levels.

School Population and School Costs

The very size and cost of the public school system would classify it as an important matter even if it did not have many other important social relationships.

In 1926, the U. S. Bureau of Education reports that the child population between 5-17 years was 30 millions; of which 24 millions were enrolled in the public schools. We employed 814,000 teachers and paid them in salaries over one billion dollars and added another billion for running expenses. If we now state that the school properties are worth over four billion and a half, we need no further statistics to realize the size of the school problem. These figures do not include the private schools, colleges, and universities.

From these statistics, it is evident that America believes in education. It believes in it so strongly that we have adopted almost universal compulsory education. This provision in our modern life has brought about a radical change in the physical and mental environment of children. Much evidence has been accumulating that unless care is used the health and vigor of children can be injured by their school experience. It is no skepticism of the wisdom of universal education to insist that education must not be bought at the price of health. This is the negative side of the picture.

The positive side of the picture presents the possibilities of health building in the schools. With the recognition of the importance of vigorous health by the educator, we are gradually having instituted in the schools more well-rounded health programs. The educators need the intelligent, understanding support of parents to back them up in this aspect of education.

References: Jones, T. J. - Four Essentials of Education, Chap. 1.
Wood, Thomas - The Child in School.

Government of School Group

The government of the school group has been delegated to the elective members of school boards or committees. It is self-evident that the quality of the schools, including the health program, is dependent upon the character of the individuals elected to office. We should select the members of the Board of Education with great care. They are responsible for our most valuable "billion dollar corporation."