



"It seems to me," says Superintendent J. M. Rankin, of Falls, "that the League makes desirable progress each year in amending the rules of competition so that undesirable elements of intense competition can best be eliminated. I commend heartily the Ten-Semester Rule as it now stands, and I believe I am ready to vote for an eight-semester rule of similar tenor, even with the scholastic age recently lowered. I am perfectly willing, nay eager, to see athletic competition in high schools limited to bona fide students of high-school age."

Concerning expense of procuring new records for the music memory contest, Supt. R. H. Brister, of Taylor, says:

"We have more than four hundred expensive music memory records and the contest calls for thirty odd new ones this year and my teacher tells me that only two or three of those were repeated from the previous years. I should like to know why it would not be practical to start in after about three or four years and rotate again with the same records." The complaint which is here made is quite general. The company which makes the greater part of the records suitable for music memory work recently called in all their old records, and began again with a completely new line. If records previously used were prescribed, schools not now possessing them could not get them at all. We were forced, therefore, to prescribe new ones. The old records, however, are by no means valueless. In the new music memory bulletin will be found a plan for utilizing these old records in a very effective way.

Carry On League Work In Summer Vacation

WE CLIP the following item from the Orange Grove Observer of Sept. 15:

In order to stimulate the activities of the Interscholastic League in the Schroeder community for the ensuing year, prizes have been offered to the winners in declamation, spelling, and essay. The declamation contests will be held on the first day of school, the spelling contest on the second day and the essay on the third day.

Rules for these contests were given to the pupils last May at the close of school. Such an opportunity is a challenge to pupils to make use of their spare moments.

Armaments can never be viewed as an economic asset to a state. They must ever remain the unproductive exploitation of men and material and an encroachment on the economic reserves of a state through the temporary conscription of men in the active periods of their lives—not to mention the moral impairment resulting from a preoccupation with the profession of war and the moral processes of preparing a nation for it.—Professor Albert Einstein.

High-School Football Coaches Plan a Statewide Organization

Committee Issues Call for Meeting and Suggestions

A TENTATIVE Constitution and Rules has been worked out for the proposed "Texas High School Football Coaches Association," and the chairman of the committee on temporary organization, Jimmie Kitts, of Athens, invites suggestions from high school coaches over the State concerning the perfecting of the organization, and especially concerning the time when the meeting should take place for adopting the Constitution, and the amount of dues which should be charged.

The committee has issued the following statement:

At a meeting of a group of Texas high school coaches during the S.M.U. Coaching School the following committee was elected to work out plans for a Texas High School Football Coaches Association: Jimmie Kitts, Athens; Johnny Pierce, Corsicana; Nick Dobbs, Highland Park; Bennie Strickland, Austin.

This preliminary meeting and temporary organization was prompted by the request of a large number of high school coaches (and the approval of the Interscholastic League officials and many school superintendents and principals) for such an organization.

Some of the advantages of such an organization are:

1. Personal contact of the coaches that will make for better relationship between schools.
2. Opportunity to discuss and to work out common problems.
3. Organized effort in creating the right attitude of coaches toward the profession in order that criticism may be avoided and a wholesome support for athletics encouraged.
4. Meetings will afford a place at which messages of importance can be brought to all of the coaches by outstanding men in the profession.

These and other benefits of equal importance will be received by the members of the Association with a more friendly and cooperative spirit that will tend to place the profession on a higher and more stable plane.

In working out details for perfecting the organization it is the desire of the committee that every high school football coach in Texas cooperate and in this connection we will be pleased to have your support and suggestions on the following:

1. Time of meeting; suggested: Saturday after Thanksgiving at the State Teachers Association, during the Christmas holidays, during the State meeting of the N.E.A.
2. Dues; suggested: Two dollars for active membership, and one dollar for allied membership.

The committee concludes its statement, as follows:

"Please let us know your reaction to this proposed organization and if we can count on you to take an active part. We will give you the benefit of our work and notify you of the place and time of the first meeting."

Football Time

(Editorial—Record-News (Wichita Falls), September 9, 1930.)

IF baseball is the national game, there seems little doubt that football, generally, and high-school football in particular, is the state game of Texas. Glance over the pages of any daily newspaper these fall days and you will find from one corner of the state to the other, and in almost every village and town, there is a squad of 11 or more young men scrapping for the glory of the "old high school" and for the entertainment of their town or section.

Taken as a whole, scholastic football in Texas is perhaps the best, the most ably supervised and the most sincerely supported of any state in the nation. Much of the credit for this must go to the University of Texas Interscholastic League. While we have not always agreed with League officials in the wisdom of their rules and their interpretations of rules, on the whole they have been wonderfully successful in keeping the game on a footing of clean and fair competition.

High-school football, as we know it in Texas, is a fine thing for the players, the students, the schools, and the public at large. The lovers of this sport owe an annual vote of thanks to the Interscholastic League for its work.

PROPOSES MUSIC MEMORY BY RADIO

Trinity Superintendent Says Plan Would Lighten Expense of This Contest

WE have the following interesting suggestion from Superintendent E. L. Blair, of Trinity:

"I have been requested to question the state office as to the advisability of conducting the music memory contest of the Interscholastic League as a contest over radio. Many schools, my own included, find it is absolutely impossible to participate in the music memory contest because of the expenses involved. It seems to me that nowadays when many schools have radio receiving sets the music memory contest could be more satisfactorily given by having the selections broadcast from one of the Texas stations. This thought occurred to me and I pass it on to your office for consideration. Naturally, it will take some time to work out such a proposed plan."

Before considering the feasibility of this plan, the number of schools having radios would have to be determined, and we do not have this information at present. Again there are only two or three stations in Texas which reach the entire state, and unless one of these stations was interested in it, the plan could not be carried out. It would be necessary, also, to employ some competent person to conduct the lesson each day, and that is an item of considerable expense itself. However, this suggestion is well worth thinking over. We shall be glad to hear from teachers who are interested in this suggestion.

BILL ROPER THINKS FOOTBALL OVERDONE

Declares Against Spring Practice, Night Games and Frenzied Publicity

A recent press dispatch quotes Bill Roper, Princeton football coach, as saying that intercollegiate football should return to the status of a "boy's game played by boys in a boy's way."

"Overemphasis will kill the game in a few years," Roper said in an address to sports writers of New York and Philadelphia. Three ways in which the Tiger mentor believes football is being over-emphasized are spring practices, night games, and publicity for individual stars, he went on to explain.

Roper pointed out the decline in the interest in college baseball in recent years may be traced to spring football practice.

"Football should be a virile game played in the fall and not an all-year round business," he said.

"Night football is brutal and outrageous and is likely to result in serious permanent injuries to the players," Roper went on. "It puts them under serious eye-strain and revolutionizes their whole college program. It necessitates practice at night, and this interferes with the players' meals and with their sleep at night."

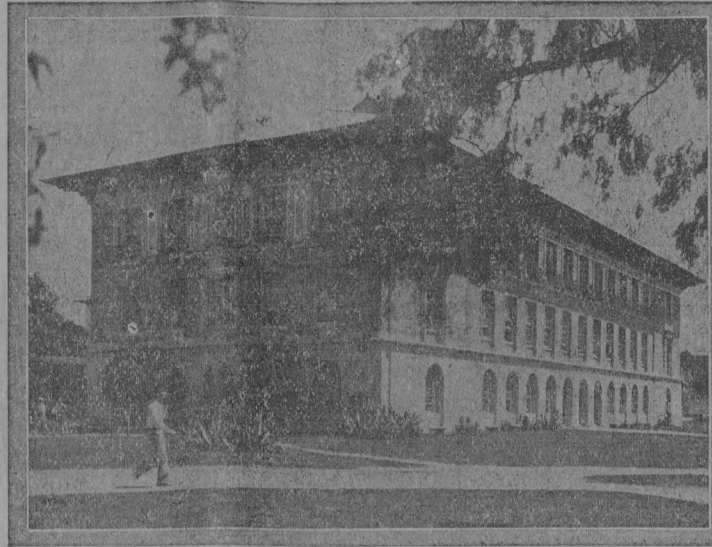
The Princeton coach criticized the amount of publicity which is given to individual stars, saying it was greater than that accorded to Mussolini or to United States Senators.

"The result is to give the players a dwarfed perspective which handicaps them all through life," he said.

After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, love, and so on—have found that none of them finally satisfy, or permanently wear—what remains? Nature remains; to bring out from their torpid recesses, the affinities of a man or woman with the open air, the trees, fields, the changes of seasons—the sun by day and the stars of heaven by night.—Walt Whitman.

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.—Thoreau.

Regents Rename Building to Honor Dr. William S. Sutton



SUTTON HALL

WITH President H. Y. Benedict of The University of Texas speaking on "The Services of Dr. Sutton to the University" and other educators of the State also taking part in the program, the Education Building at the University will be formally renamed Wednesday afternoon, November 26, at 4 o'clock, in honor of the late Dr. William Seneca Sutton, dean emeritus of the School of Education. Dean Sutton was also formerly acting president of the University.

The renaming of this building as Sutton Hall in the memory of Dean Sutton was sanctioned by the University Regents this summer. This action was taken in tribute to Dr. Sutton's long and faithful service to the University.

The renaming ceremony will take place in the campus open air theatre if the weather permits; if not, it will be held in Gregory Gymnasium, according to Dr. B. F. Pittenger, dean of the School of Education and chairman of the committee to arrange the program. Wednesday, November 26, was chosen as the date for this program in order that teachers of the State, on their way to Houston for the State Teachers' Association meeting, might stop in Austin to attend, Dr. Pittenger said. The program will be held at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

President Harry F. Estill of Sam Houston State Teachers' College will speak of Dr. Sutton's educational service to the State, and Supt. E. B. Cobb of the Waco public schools will speak of him as a teacher.

It is intended that these brief addresses shall be printed in a bulletin, together with a short biography of Dr. Sutton, a bibliography of the books he has written and excerpts from his writings.

AMARILLO DEBARS HIGH SCHOOL FRATS

Fifty Students Refuse to Sign Pledge Required by School Authorities

AMARILLO High School authorities have declared war on fraternities. The board and the faculty have ruled that students in high school must drop membership in all Greek letter organizations.

During the last week in September the school authorities took positive steps to eradicate the fraternities and sororities, and the fight has given promise of developing into one that may become heated.

Following the example of most of the large Texas high schools an effort is being made to stamp out the organizations on the ground that they are "undemocratic."

Pledges to forego all fraternities were given all high school students when the new term opened, but approximately fifty students have failed to return them, Principal R. B. Norman reported.

The board now is seeking to learn why these students have failed to sign the pledge.

Penalty of Suspension
Penalty for violation of the pledge carries a "suspension from school for an indefinite period."

Students who are members of the fraternities are barred from playing on the football team, belonging to the pep squad, participating in any athletics, clubs, class offices or any activity sponsored by the Interscholastic League.

The pledge reads:
Students who belong to Greek letter fraternities or sororities, or to other secret organizations composed in part or wholly of high-school students, and which are similar in all respects, ex-

LIST OF ONE-ACT PLAYS NOW READY

Many Fine Plays Now Listed and Described for Directors Use

(By Morton Brown)

A LIST of one-act plays adapted to high school production has recently been compiled by the League Bureau, a mimeographed copy of which will be sent free to the director of any school entering the one-act play contest.

The League has always stood for fine plays. If you know of plays that should be on our list write in what we may add them. And if you think that some of the plays on our list should not be included write us what too, and why. Many of the plays included are slight, but we have tried to include plays that are easy to do and well within the range of actors not yet ready for more difficult things.

If teachers and directors will write us of plays they think should be included in the play collection in the Extension Loan Library we shall try to acquire them as rapidly as possible. Plays recommended need not necessarily be confined to those adapted to high-school production. Let's have the best traveling play collection in the country!

The Little Theater of the Last Frontier Carries On

FIFTY miles by automobile is not a great distance to go to rehearse for a play—not if you love to act and the car is filled with congenial souls—who by day may be school teachers, lawyers, or just housewives! As a matter of fact, members of the Little Theatre of the Last Frontier, down on the Texas border, do travel fully fifty miles to reach a central point for rehearsals, for the organization has members up and down the seventy-five mile length of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Katherine Oliver McCoy, director of this little theatre—one of more than a hundred in the State of Texas—is best known as an interpreter of Scottish dramas, particularly those of Barrie. Among the orange groves of

(Continued on Page Four)

DEBATING PROVIDES VALUABLE TRAINING

University Professor Points Out Need for Speech Contests in Schools

SCHOOLS can offer no training more vital for success than that which develops the power of persuasive speech, and the debating platform is the best foundation for building such training. This plea for a new emphasis upon high school debating is made by Prof. Andrew T. Weaver, chairman of the speech department, University of Wisconsin, writing in the September number of the Forensic News-Letter, published by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

Values of Debating

A mind may be packed with facts, Professor Weaver maintained, but without the power of effective speech a man may live "a clumsy, ineffective and isolated life." He pronounced debating in school an effective method of training the mind to view life's problems in their proper perspective, of imposing a self-discipline that takes honest cognizance of the merits of opposing beliefs, and of adding to the student's general information.

Tolerance Is Taught

Professor Weaver commended debating for bringing to the contestants knowledge and information concerning vital economic, social and political problems; furnishing an insight into the true nature of argument; teaching tolerance, by developing the conviction that the process of argumentation is not synonymous with personal disagreements, wrangling and heated controversy; and increasing skill as a persuasive speaker.

"The curriculum of the school," he asserted, "can offer to the student no type of training giving more fundamental and more vital connection with his success in life than training which builds up those speech skills developed on the debating platform."

Reach All Students

In connection with these speech contests in high schools, however, Professor Weaver sounded a warning. Although furnishing an excellent type of training for the talented or gifted student, and absorbing much attention, they "leave the great mass of those who need the training most outside the pale of its influence and untouched by its benefits."

"We need remedial speech correction for those who were crippled

(Continued on Page Four)

League Breakfast
Banquet Room No. 1, Rice Hotel
Houston, November 28, 7:45 a.m.

Tickets Ready

Address by Dr. G. E. Densmore,
Professor of Public Speaking,
University of Michigan

Good Breakfast ♦ \$1.

Send for ticket to Miss Willie M. Thompson, Secretary of the League, University Station, Austin, Texas

(Continued on Page Four)



Published eight times a year, each month, from September to April, inclusive, by the Division of Extension, of The University of Texas.

ROY BEDICHEK - - - - - Editor

(Entered as second-class matter November 6, 1927, at the postoffice at Austin, Texas, under Act of August 24, 1912.)

Vol. XIV October, 1930 No. 2

THE NUMBER SENSE bulletin has been enlarged this year by the addition of about one hundred problems. This little bulletin has proved to be very helpful in coaching pupils for the Number Sense contest. New sample tests are being prepared, although the old tests are good for schools that have not yet used them.

LISTS of picture memory selections for the ensuing year are available for distribution, but at present writing, the picture memory bulletin is not off the press. We believe it will be available before this issue of the Leaguer reaches you. Remember this contest is confined to fifth graders. It is so simple that it would hardly interest a higher grade. Perhaps it should be pushed down to the fourth. What do you think?

FEES for membership during 1930-31 in the League are coming in at present writing (October 23) at about one hundred per day. The roll-book begins to look bulky. Several thousand schools are already paid up for this year and in good standing. Last year we had 5,727. As the Chambers of Commerce say, that was a "banner year." But we ought to reach six thousand this year.

MORE interest than ever is being shown this year by one- and two-teacher schools in the Three-R contest. It is gradually being realized that here is a contest confined strictly to the small rural school which affords opportunity for a trip to Austin with a large part of transportation expense paid, and chance for state honors. Every rural one- and two-teacher school ought to go in for this event. A folder describing the contest and giving explicit directions for conducting it may be had from the State Office free of charge.

BOWIE County last year issued a program of its county meet, printing the name of each individual contestant and the event in which he or she participated. This is a fine idea. Contestants naturally like to see their names in print, and it certainly adds greatly to the interest of spectators to know the names of the individual contestants. It is not very expensive either; all of the names appear in a folder, which, when spread out, is only about one-third larger than a sheet of letter-sized paper.

USE of the State Adopted Text in the spelling contests this year promises to increase the interest of the pupils and save the time of the teachers. Certain assignments will be found in the rules to pages and columns in the State Adopted Text. Be careful to get the right assignments for the respective spelling divisions in your charge. In training pupils, keep on emphasizing legibility of handwriting. Remember this is a "plain writing" as well as a "spelling" contest.

DON'T fail to get in touch with your county Director of Debate early in the season, if you have a team to enter. Remember the present rules call for a round robin in debate, and this must be arranged far in advance of the date set for the county meet. Give the Debate Director your cooperation by reporting early. Agree on judges; advertise the debates; let everybody come; have a little music to put everyone in a good humor; then let the teams go at it hammer and tongs. And one more "don't"—"don't" criticize the decision of the judges.

A FEE of five dollars per year per student for typewriting has financed the purchase of typewriters for the commercial department of the

Coleman High School. Beginning with one typewriter a few years ago, Superintendent Hufford reports the fees have gradually built up the number of typewriters until now the school owns twenty-five machines all new and in good condition. At the end of three years a machine is traded in for a new one, and this practice supplemented by regular inspection by an expert keeps all of the typewriters in first-class condition.

ESSAY writing rules have been given a thorough overhauling this year. Greater emphasis has been placed on learning to write and less on the amassing of information. Topics will be assigned well within the range of the average student's study, observation, and experience. Preparation on subject matter is therefore eliminated. Drill should be concentrated on learning to organize subjects by logically outlining them, on learning to punctuate so as to bring out the meaning, on developing style, on the art of telling the reader something worthwhile in a clear and interesting fashion.

IN ANOTHER column of this issue will be found a call issued by prominent high school football coaches to others engaged in similar work looking to the forming of a statewide organization. It is a fine enterprise, and should meet with enthusiastic response. Organization in any business, profession, or calling usually brings into leadership the more exceptional and better qualified individuals of the group, it sets up ideals to work toward, and furnishes a plan whereby progress towards those ideals may be measured from year to year. We hope that this proposed organization gets a good start at an early date.

A SUPERINTENDENT writes: "Please send me the necessary dope on debating. I am anxious to get going. Our muscle squads are working overtime, but the brain department is going begging. What can we do about it?" It is perhaps misleading to draw such a sharp distinction between football and debating. We have seen football which was exceedingly "smart" and clearly indicated "brain" work and development. On the other hand we have seen oratory which was exceedingly "physical," and clearly indicated "muscular" rather than mental development. We admit, however, that the development in football is predominately physical and that the development in debating is predominately mental.

MANY schools are applying early for the "Sample Test Service" to be used in preparing pupils for the music memory contest. We have made up some hundred or more test packages. Unfamiliar records which test the pupil's tone recognition, as well as his ability to detect type and record measure, are furnished in a package together with directions for giving the test as well as a key for grading the same. We had difficulty with this service last year. So many schools waited until the last month or two to order the service that we found ourselves unable to furnish sets promptly. Profiting by last year's experience, we have inserted the following proviso in the offer this year: "Application for this service after January 1 may be refused, if subscriptions already accepted have exhausted the supply so that prompt service cannot be guaranteed." For full description of this service, see paragraph 5, page 55, of the Constitution and Rules.

THE declamation bibliography circulated since 1927 has been revised and enlarged for this year's contests. About fifty books of declamations are listed, giving the publisher, price, and short description of what the book contains. Declamation teachers should get a copy of this circular which is sent free on request, and put in their requisitions to their respective school boards for the books they select. Every school library ought to have several good collections of declamations. There is no better way to get pupils interested in good literature than to induce them to participate in declamation. Here they learn by heart selections from the greatest orations, essays, or narratives of literature, or they memorize some gem of poetry. Not only do they learn selections from great masterpieces, but they study how they may be declaimed to make them understood and appreciated by an audience. No better way of teaching an appreciation of the great things in literature has ever been devised.

EDUCATION for peace is one thing; education for war is quite another.

"To maintain the war spirit at high efficiency and to avoid independent thinking on the part of soldiers," says Arthur E. Morgan, "it is necessary that the herd instinct be carefully trained from a

military point of view. Captain John H. Burns, in the *Infantry Journal* for December, 1928, tells how to do this:

"The military problem, psychologically speaking, resolves itself into taking every advantage of the herd instinct to integrate the mass. . . . This military processing of civilians is a purely empirical thing, but it is an eminently sound one. . . . "It is useless to try and convince men of the value of military standards by reasoning with them, for reasoning, no matter how brilliant or conclusive, always leaves a suspicion of doubt and uncertainty in the mind of the average man. It is necessary that he be firmly convinced, and the best way of doing this, in fact the only way, is to indoctrinate him. Constant repetition of the item to be inculcated, unsupported by any reasons, will have an immense effect on the suggestible, herd-minded human. An opinion, an idea, or a code acquired in this manner can become so firmly fixed that one who questions its essential rightness will be regarded as foolish, wicked, or insane."

A PLAYER in the Southwest Conference was recently declared eligible "by grace." There is a confusion of thought here which needs to be cleared up. When a person has wronged the State, the judge often exercises mercy and in effect pardons him. In civil cases, however, there is little latitude for mercy. If John Doe fences in Richard Roe's land, and Richard Roe proves his title to the land, there is no court which "by grace" would tell Richard to run along because it had decided to award the land to John Doe "by grace." Similarly, if two players compete under an accepted set of rules for a position on a team, and one of them violates the rules and forfeits his right and claim to the position, it cannot be awarded "by grace," but only by the rankest injustice to the player who has forfeited it. Committees charged with enforcing eligibility rules seem prone to consider themselves as a sort of jury before whom is brought a person who has wronged some vast impersonal thing like the State. But really this jury has before it two individuals, one of whom has a right to a certain desirable thing which must be awarded to one or the other.

A decision which gives to one person something which belongs of right to another is not "graceful" but "graceless."

AFTER being printed in garbled form some twenty million or more times in University of Texas bulletins, the famous sentences of Mirabeau B. Lamar will henceforth appear as Lamar spoke them.

"Cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy . . . It is the only dictator that freemen acknowledge and the only security that freemen desire."

The deleted portion, upon recommendation of President H. Y. Benedict, is to be restored. And the deleted portion contains the milk in the coconut, for it lays down a requirement for "cultivated mind." The shoddiest gangster in the country may have a cultivated mind. He may have a thorough education. He may even be a graduate of a higher educational institution; but certainly it is not such cultivated mind that is the guardian genius of democracy. Lamar did not leave his dictum in such vulnerable form. The deleted clause reads "and while guided and controlled by virtue, is the noblest attribute of men." Thus it is only when cultivated mind is guided and controlled by virtue that it is a social asset. Guided and controlled by vice, cultivated mind becomes a social liability. Knowledge is power; so is dynamite, which may be used with equal efficiency to blast out a roadway or to blow up a bank. It makes a great difference whether dynamite be placed at the disposal of an engineer intent on public service or in the hands of a Chicago gangster to terrorize a tribute from legitimate business. In one case this power is "guided and controlled by virtue," in the other, by virtue's opposite. So it is well that the pregnant words be restored to the quotation. Materialists, whose religion is science, may well study this insertion.

Lowering Instruction Cost

MANY experiments are being conducted in both secondary and college education whose objective is to lessen the cost per lesson. A large class of a given ability is organized, a small class of the same ability, a "control group," and a "technique" prescribed, and at the end of a given period the results of objective tests are set down in columns. There is no doubt that much is being learned, and that this experimentation is valuable. This work is necessarily under the supervision of superintendents and principals. They are naturally anxious to reduce the cost per student, for every dollar's reduction is a feather in the execu-

tive cap. They are working at the problem, most of them, honestly and effectively, but they are working at it from an angle which prevents them from seeing just how a new "technique" affects the teacher in charge of the class. It may turn out that a scheme which was thought to be a great economy is simply the old factory "speeding" process applied to the work of the individual teacher. It may be that it requires work out of school hours,—home-work that another "technique" does not require. It may be that it is a sort of disguised "piece-work" process of which factory workers have complained. For illustration, in the June issue of *School Life*, you will find an article entitled "Teaching Technique and Size of Class" by William A. Wetzel, Principal Senior High School, Trenton, N. J. He claims to have discovered a technique which enables an average teacher to teach a class of forty as effectively as she can teach a class of twenty-five by following the usual method. But the so-called "technique" we find, calls for making out, distributing, grading, etc., of sets of cards, with the help of the more advanced pupils. The writer fails to say how much of the teacher's time is taken up with card-making and grading. He does admit that a draft is made on the teaching talent of the pupils in the class, and he makes the surprising assertion that pupil assistants who help credit the work done on the cards and who coach the slower pupils find this practice as useful to them as it is profitable to the slower pupils. Who ever proved this? Coaching slow pupils is usually considered a service and is paid for at a definite rate. Perhaps Mr. Wetzel's plan is valuable, but there are two factors which may account for reduction of cost per pupil which he claims for it: (1) increased work of teacher; (2) drafting of coaching talent from class, on the unproved theory that the coach is helped as much as the person coached.

Bolshiviki Contests

THE use of the contest as an educational device, begun thousands of years ago by the Greeks, and even before that in embryonic form by primitive peoples, has continued throughout the ages. In practically all of the so-called "systems of education" it has had a place, from the competitive examinations of the Chinese to the elaborate and skillfully organized class-room contests of the Jesuits. One of the latest developments in this field occurs in Russia in the establishment of the "Theatrical Olympia." A wireless from Moscow of July 2 by Walter Duranty published in the *New York Times*, says, in part:

"The newest thing in Russia today is the 'Theatrical Olympia.' As its name implies, it is a sort of Olympic competition for the native theaters of Russia's many races. There are upward of twenty of these engaged with fourteen different languages—some play in Russian—under the auspices of the Proletarian Theatrical Society and the Communist youth newspaper, *Pravda*.

"These national theaters were brought to Moscow at state expense for June 15, when the contest began, and will remain until July 11, giving public performances from repertory and private views before a 'jury' composed mainly of young Communists with representatives from each national theater, and, to insure fair play, experts from the Art, Meyerhold, and Kamerny theaters of Moscow. It is presided over by the veteran Communist, Felix Kohn, editor of the Red Army organ, *Red Star*. According to present arrangements there will be no prizes or actual classification in order. Each theater will receive a written report emphasizing its merits or shortcomings, but it is highly probable that the more successful will win a reward in the shape of an 'honor tour' of the principal cities and a subsidy from the state."

New Russia is going in also for team-games. Individual competitions emphasize too much, so the educational leaders say, the individualistic point of view. They are strong for collectivist psychology. Hence, football, baseball, basket ball are their favorite sports. And for ingenuity, how is this for a contest in mechanics:

"A complete picture of a machine gun and all of its divisions is painted on a huge board. The separate parts of the gun are marked with metal buttons, and along the side in a column are listed the names of every segment, with a metal button after each word. Across the top of the plaque are two rows of electric lights.

"Teams made up of both men and women are chosen. A leader with an electrically-wired pointer touches the button on a particular segment of the gun. The player tries to point to the correct name of the part indicated with another wired rod. If he succeeds a circuit is established and as a reward a light flashes for his side. When one side has set burning all the lights it can, the opposite group then goes through the same routine, and the team having the largest number of lighted bulbs wins. As the correctness is recorded electrically, no expert is needed to conduct the contest.

"There are other devices of this sort where a rifle, a gasoline motor or a dynamo are employed as subject matter."

OFF-SIDES

BY THE EDITOR

SAYS Henry Wharton: "Fashionable heels throw the body out of line, tilting it forward. They shorten the tendon of Achilles and make tense the muscles above it. They hamper walking and render it ungraceful. They throw the weight of the body unduly on the front part of the foot. They cause shock to the spine and cause nervous strain." In short, Mr. Wharton thinks high-heeled shoes are quite idiotic, which of course, they are; but he is too polite to say so.

EXAMINATION of some several thousand high-school essays and spelling papers, has moved us to devise a sentence which we hope English composition teachers and spelling teachers will dictate to their respective classes, until all pupils write the "all" family all right. The sentence follows: "If, when 'all ways' became 'always,' 'all ready' had already become all right and 'all so,' also, why has not 'alright' also already become all right?"

MARSHA WHEELER, "noted authority and writer on health, charm, and beauty," advised her more hefty readers in a recent syndicated article, as follows:

"Tear three or four sheets of paper to bits and scatter them promiscuously over your most cherished Persian rug in your choicest show-off company room! Then bit by bit pick up the paper. The best plan is to place a waste basket high upon the table, and then make it a rule that each bit of paper picked up must be placed in the waste basket before the next is picked up."

This exhilarating sport is interesting enough in and of itself, but we suggest that contests be organized to introduce the competitive element. An age-weight-height scale would be useful in equalizing the competition, but a better scheme would be to establish a proportion between girth-measurement and height, thus those whose girth equaled height form one class, those whose girth exceeded height by one-fourth, another class, and so on. The equipment for this sport as prescribed by Miss Wheeler is rather expensive: more than one company room and a choice Persian rug. However, this exercise is only for the "upper classes" to whom a matter of \$1,500 for a rug to play on is a mere trifle, whereas the "lower classes" during this industrial depression are working longer hours on less food and manage to avoid excess weight.

Paul said, "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good," not "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's goods."

SAD NEWS, mates, sad news. We have for many years had a sort of luke-warm affection for the *Saturday Evening Post*, although never since childhood have we really read it, for growing up, we, as Paul did, put away childish things. Ninety per cent of its reading matter is apparently designed for children, fourteen-year-olds either by the calendar or by mental test. Mechanically, this publication is a monstrosity. It is bulky, hard to hold, and especially difficult to peruse in bed where we do most of our browsing among the magazines. Its print is small, its columns are wide, and when the fat old thing slithers down upon you warping the page you are trying to read, the eye simply cannot follow the line you are on without an effort entirely disproportionate to the satisfaction to be gained. But, associated as it has always been with the dear, remembered things of childhood, we have never ceased to regard it lovingly. Now comes the shock! We read the following press dispatch:

"Cyrus H. K. Curtis has consented to admit cigarette advertising to his *Saturday Evening Post*."

Ah, Mr. Curtis, think of that great army of bright-faced, eager, little youngsters you have organized all over America to sell the *Post*. Think of the high-falutin' letters you have been writing them about honor and uprightness and service and love—keeping them all pepped up all the time about these out-of-date virtues. And now you are going to set this great army of school boys to peddling the cigarette dope among their little brothers and sisters. Thus falls the twilight of the Victorian gods; and thus the huge colossus of cigarette advertising bestrides the narrow world. The average family expends per year for cigarettes in the United States about \$70.

"The righteous man departs but his light remains."

Creative Aspects of School Dramatics

By Katherine Anne Ommanney, of North Side High School, Denver.

FOR the first time in its long history the drama is rapidly becoming a vital force in the education of the average boy and girl, just as it was once the vital force in the religion of the average man and woman. In the United States the drama is being democratized—not as a source of spreading propaganda, nor as a medium of stage training as in the schools of the profession, but as a practical means of developing more appreciative, cultured, and expressive human beings.

From the kindergarten through the university, from informal dramatization to productions of highest artistic calibre, the drama is a recognized phase of modern education. Of all the forms in which the enthusiasm for the theatre is manifesting itself at the present moment, surely the field of educational dramatics is the most constructive, affording, as it does, an opportunity for raising the public theatrical taste as well as for developing the individual.

Casting to Improve Students
In his discussion of the drama in high schools, Kenneth Macgowan, dramatic critic, says, "It is the conscious and reasoned product of the belief on the part of educators that the study of the active theatre is an invaluable factor in the educational process, that it develops personal and social qualities of the utmost value." He also points out, "Through the dramatic instinct, which develops from the play instinct, the boy or girl can escape the restrictions of the single, limited personality. He can escape from his individual environment. . . . Teachers who see beyond good speech and good literature are stressing the necessity of casting parts to improve the students instead of casting students to improve the parts. They are not so much interested in giving good performances as in correcting and reading just personalities." He quotes Doris E. McEntyre, director of dramatic work in the Oakland High schools, as claiming that educational dramatics develops consciously "those traits which constitute the foundations of fine citizenship: self-control and emotional mastery, self-reliance and self-confidence, adaptability, initiative that drives through obstacles to altruistic ends, tolerance and understanding, a sense of personal responsibility, a sense of loyalty rooted in the principle of each for all and all for each, an enthusiastic cooperative spirit, a fitness for companionship, a sense of fair play."

Favors Teaching Children Evil Effects of Tobacco

UNDER date of October 7, Miss Allie Brand, County Superintendent of Public Instruction in Orange County, writes as follows:

After reading the September Leaguer, I decided to risk making this inquiry concerning the League breakfast. Will there be any limit as to how much smoking will be indulged in during this event? This inquiry is the result of my experience at the last meeting, in having to leave in the midst of the discussions on account of the density of the tobacco smoke and of my lack of being accustomed to it. I cannot reconcile tobacco using with Interscholastic League work. If participants in athletic contests are benefited by abstaining from the use of tobacco, isn't it probable that participants in all other contests would be equally benefited by refraining from its use?

Then if teachers expect to teach pupils the evil effects of tobacco, do you think it can be done effectively, when the directors of these various contests indulge in the use of tobacco during the various contests, as well as during the meetings of directors?

From the articles published in the September Leaguer, I judge I am not alone in my opinion that the old practice of teaching the evil effects of alcohol and tobacco should be revised.

The assurance that the subject affords so practical an opportunity to inspire morally, stimulate mentally, and remold physically furnishes the most important creative aspect of the course. In accordance with this point of view, the general aims of the course of study in dramatics in the Denver senior high schools are stated as follows:

To inculcate practical ideals for the development of personality and formation of character.

To awaken a lasting appreciation of the drama.

To offer actual experience in acting based upon a sound technique.

To develop critical taste leading to a worthy use of leisure time in witnessing, interpreting, and reading good plays.

To begin an acquaintance with the history of the drama and current theatrical movements.

To present a working knowledge of simple stage production.

Naturally, the creative aspects of the class work depend upon the utilization of the subject matter in the realizing of these aims.

In this age of happy companionship between pedagogue and pupil, every enthusiastic teacher of every subject can give countless examples of the concrete response of his students to the creative aspects of his class work; but dramatics teachers are fortunate in the opportunity for creative expression afforded by the subject matter with which they deal. Almost every class period brings forth some manifestation of this delightful phase of their daily work. Original monologues and one-act plays of real emotional power, exquisite little stage settings, artistic scrapbooks of lasting value, oral play reviews worthy of platform presentation, miniature stages with practical lighting and mechanical equipment, beautiful bits of interpretative or pantomimic art, penetrating paragraphs of dramatic criticism—these are some of the concrete expressions of the creative aspects of that intimate, joyous, and cooperative project, the high school class in dramatics.

Less Spectacular Results
But far more satisfying are the less spectacular results seen in the gradual improvement in speech, bodily response, spiritual understanding, and social adjustment. Class work based upon the interpretation and appreciation of such great souls as Shakespeare, Barrie, Shaw, Rostand, Dunsany, Lady Gregory, Milne, and Maeterlinck, is bound to have its effect on the pupil.

High-school classes in dramatics, the country over, are no longer a safe refuge for light-weight sheikhs and flappers seeking a snap course and a theatrical career. When they stray in, they are mystified, disappointed, reformed, or discarded. Practical parents need no longer fear that the dramatic urge is leading their children into a frivolous waste of valuable time and energy. Many universities and colleges are giving full credit for high school dramatic class work and sending out specialized instructors to teach it.

Although professional stage training should never be the aim of a high-school course, the ever-growing field open to young people with unusual talent makes vocational guidance an important consideration. A creative aspect not to be overlooked is the inspiring of the future actors, playwrights, directors, scenic artists, mechanics, and instructors of the theatrical world.

Drama of the Future

Mr. Macgowan says, "Some hundreds of thousands of young actors, designers, stage hands, and managers are producing plays for an audience that runs into the millions." He bases this statement upon an approximation that seven thousand high schools in the United States have definite classes in dramatics with an average membership of fifty students. Monsieur Gemier, the distinguished French actor-manager and founder of the annual International Conference of the Theater, once said to the writer that the great drama of the future would come from the United States and Russia. If these two statements from authorities on world drama are true, surely the outstanding creative aspect of the courses in dramatics throughout the United States is the establishment of an artistic enthusiasm which will culminate in a great national drama for America.—Denver (Colo.) Public School Bulletin, Vol. III, No. 7.

The Kansas City Star has for many years barred from its columns any news item, feature, "funny," or advertisement that introduces a snake. A slip was made recently and a snake got onto the funny page causing great commotion in the editorial staff.

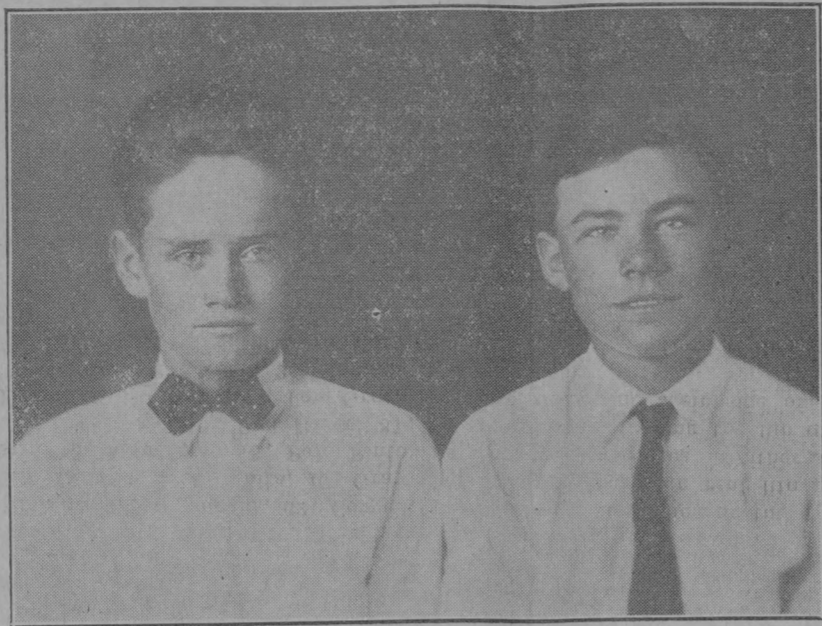
An honest magistrate has lean clerks; a powerful god has fat priests.—Chinese Proverb.

State Superintendent Issues 2350 Certificates for Reading

Plan in Operation Three Years by State Department Shows Promising Results Among Elementary Grades

(By WM. EILERS, State Department of Education)

IN ORDER to stimulate greater interest in the reading of library books for elementary grades, a committee of the members of the Rural School Division of the State Department of Education during the summer of 1927-'28 selected a list of thirty titles for a regular reading course from the fourth to the seventh grade,



Glen Gentry

Orbin Scalf

inclusive. To the boys and girls who read as many as fifteen of these books, the State Superintendent issues a reading certificate signed by him and having one seal on it; to those who read the entire list of thirty books before finishing the seventh grade, a reading certificate with two seals is awarded. This list of titles is found in bulletin No. 239, Approved Library Books for the Elementary Grades.

This offer has prompted thousands of children to devote their spare time to reading these books, thereby greatly increasing their information and enlarging their vocabulary. In preparing this list of titles, the committee had in mind the selection of books that were among the best in literature, biography, and history, and would give the children a well-balanced course for the elementary grades. The biographies include the lives of Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Lee, four of our greatest Americans. Next to environment and association, there is nothing that influences the character and stimulates the ambition of a boy or girl more than the reading of good books, especially the biographies of great men and great women and those written by our best men and best women.

At the end of the first session after the offer was made, Supt. S. M. N. Marrs issued 483 State reading certificates; during the past session he issued 2350. The first students to qualify for a reading certificate were Glenn Gentry and Orbin Scalf of the Joe Bailey, a two-teacher school in Wise County.

The following counties qualified for State reading certificates during the past session: Kaufman, 263; Hunt, 156; Dallas and El Paso, 146 each; DeWitt, 122; Lamar, 121; Wise, 74; Hidalgo, 73; Comanche, 62; Coryell, 52; Runnels, 50; Wichita, 49; Grayson, 46; Montague, 43; Palo Pinto, 42; Freestone, 40; Red River, 37; Erath, 36; Stephens, 34; Tom Green, 31; Ft. Bend, 27; Nolan, 26; Hopkins, 25; Hill, 24; Eastland, 25; Jim Hogg,

Favors College Method

I favor adopting the college method of debate relative to having negative and affirmative teams instead of having one team to work up both sides. In that case we could have a negative girl team and an affirmative and the same with boys. That would enable a school to enter four teams, and it would not overwork students to prepare one speech. Then on the other hand, people never in real life prepare to make speeches on either side of a question, allowing the flip of a coin to determine their side of the question.

Gordon Bishop.

SCIENCE OUTLAW BEVERAGE ALCOHOL

THE CASE against alcohol centers in its relation to the accuracy of the nervous system. Whatever harms the brain and nerves impairs the integrity of life. The sole purpose of its use as a beverage is to force the nervous system to lie, thus vitiating its power of recording and acting upon the truth. Men drink to feel warm when they are really cold, to "feel good" when conditions are not good, to feel emancipated from those reserves and restraints which are the essence of character building. Alcohol is a depressant, appearing as a stimulant mainly because it checks the highest nerve operations first. Its influence impinges on the chief mental functions: sensation, reason, motion. . . . It leaves its subject uncertain as to what he sees or feels, hazy as to cause and effect, and unsteady as to resultant action. No man of high purpose can afford to indulge in any degree the validity of those mental processes which register his contact with reality. Alcohol is always a habit-forming drug; the greater the injury to the nervous system, the more insistent the demand for it, and the weaker the will power in resistance. The chief argument used in favor of moderate use of alcohol is its value in conviviality. But, as President Eliot has observed, "Abstinence from alcohol kills no joys of any account while it impairs the chances of continuous working power."—David Starr Jordan, noted scientist, president National Education Association, 1914-15.

(This poster for your classroom is from The Journal of the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. Copies on art paper: 20 for \$1; \$4 per 100; \$30 per 1,000. No. 19219.)

Extemporaneous Speech Topics

A LIST of topics in Extemporaneous Speech contest continues in this issue, the second installment being published below. Note that the rules provide topics shall be taken from current news. Three magazines are suggested.

Each school entering the contest should keep a file of these topics. A list will occur in each issue of the Leaguer, and the list furnished county, district, and State meets supplied from the lists so published.

Contestants are expected to follow the developments of the various topics from month to month, and in the contests in which they engage, to present the topics in the light of recent information. Watch for additional citations on these topics in subsequent issues.

Further references: Number 2—Oct. R. of R., p. 39; Number 3—Oct. R. of R., p. 40.

(Continued from September issue)

- France Returns Colonel Lindbergh's Visit. (Daily papers; Oct. R. of R., pp. 34-36; Oct. 4 Scholastic, p. 14.)
- Government by Dictatorships. (Oct. 4 Scholastic, pp. 16-17, 32; Oct. R. of R., p. 37.)
- The Poet, Virgil. (Scholastic, Oct. 18, p. 9.)
- The Gross Sales Tax. (Contestant may simply present plant; may argue against it, or in favor of it, or give pro and con. Oct. R. of R., pp. 120-22.)
- Progress of Aviation. (Oct. R. of R., pp. 34-36 and pp. 73-78; Caution: Contestants should keep this topic up-to-date.)
- Freedom for the Philippines. (Oct. W. W., pp. 65-69; Interscholastic League furnishes Bulletin, No. 2429, dealing with this topic at 10 cents per copy.)

Pupil Must Be Led to Want To Do That Which He Does

THE royal road is one that leads to the unfolding of personality within the scope of the social and material demands to which everyone is subject. The pupil may be made to like his work if the work appears to him as a realization of his self, an affirmation of his needs, of his ideas. It must correspond to the capacities of the child, it must fortify the feeling of personal worth.

It is in this sense that I am wont to declare that the child must not do anything which he has not previously willed or desired to do. But, doubtless more through ignorance than ill-will, some have made fun of this formula, pretending that the new education makes the child do what he wants. No, I say; but he must want to do that which he does.

In order to counteract tendencies toward dominating unduly, and to teach the pupils cooperation and mutual help, true social life must be introduced in the schools. In the traditional schools, where competition is stimulated, the highest merit is to surpass the others, to arrive there first. This is most unfortunate for the less well-endowed.

In our school, what we stress is a working together for the good of the little community. As in a football match the good of the team should drown out individual vanities. Each one serves according to his special merit, not to outstrip, but to help, and the teacher considers the differences of the children, not only as regards intellectual attainments, but also as regards character.

But when inferiority is there, what can one do? Do not scold the child; on the contrary, encourage him in every way possible. Raising a child must never mean lowering him. In every way possible give him confidence in himself and occasions to succeed. The art of the teacher is to discover a good point, a hidden talent, and exploit it.

One unintelligent pupil, existing submerged at the foot of his class like a whipped dog, possessed an aptitude for playing the flute. He was encouraged to practise and soon it was he who, during the marches, walked at the head of his comrades proudly playing for them. His whole moral life was transformed, he was saved.

Above all, one must treat the inferior child with sympathy; let us say it, with love. Nature has meant man to live the first years of his life in the warm and beneficial atmosphere of love which is the antidote

for the inferiority complex.—Edouard Claparede, in *Revue de Genève*.

Hardeman County Holds Special Spelling Bee

RURAL schools of Hardeman County under the supervision of Miss Myrtle Porterfield, county superintendent, will have entrants in the spelling contest to be held in the county courthouse at Quanah, Saturday, December 13, at 2 P.M.

Each school allowed to enter the competition will be permitted to have two entrants, one whose age is 14 or more than 14 on or after September 1, 1930, and one whose age is 12 or more on or after September 1, 1930. All contestants whose age is 14 or more on or after September 1, will compete with each other. The winner of first place will be awarded a cash prize of \$12.50; the one winning second place will be given a cash prize of \$7.50.

All contestants 12 or under 12 years of age on September 1, will compete with each other, the county superintendent asserts, and the winner of first place in this group will be given a cash award of \$10.00 while the winner of second place is to be given a prize of \$5.00.

The Interscholastic League spelling list will be used for the contest and league rules and regulations will be observed.

Miss Porterfield stated, "This contest should stimulate much interest and friendly rivalry among the different teachers, pupils, and communities. Patrons are urged to encourage their children to enter the contest, not merely for the purpose of winning the cash prizes, but for the strength it will give the student in the choice of spelling and correct spelling of words essential to a good vocabulary."

The contest is to be public and people are kindly requested to encourage those who enter this worthwhile enterprise by being present when the contest is held.—Chillicothe News.

Discrimination Against Athletes

The following are excerpts from a speech made at the last state meeting of Delegates by Mrs. Scott Laycock:

I have been in school work for more than 30 years. I have a brother, Coach Rothgeb, who was pronounced the best all-round athlete in the United States by Coach Staggs of Chicago. I attended the football game between Chicago University and the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1900 and have attended at least one such big game or track meet every year since. These have been in Chicago, Houston, Dallas, College Station, Amarillo, and Canyon.

I am of the opinion that athletics do more for the all-round development of youngsters, physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually than all the books you can cram into their heads. In athletics they get the idea of cooperation and teamwork, they learn to be good losers, and they get the spirit of fair play, all three of which are badly needed in America today.

I have been in the meets of the Interscholastic League in Texas since 1910 and have had contestants in the state meet here from our schools. I will say that if you will read the rules in both the track groups listed on pages 90 and 92 of the Rule Book you will see on the entry blanks spaces for 62 track and field names and for all the other 21 events listed on page 26, in which one school may enter, there are spaces for only 60 names and yet those 62 athletic contestants can get only 10 participation points and the other 60 can get 105 such points.

I would like to ask that some member of the committee on rules make a motion that this inequality be remedied so as to give a square deal to athletics.

Tricky Advertising

THROUGH a recent ruling the United States Government finds that use of the phrase, "health-foods," in advertising foods is a misbranding under the food and drugs act, since it implies that these products have health-giving or curative properties. This calls to mind the growing practice of certain cigarette manufacturers in attempting to appeal to the health motive in advertising their products. Physical directors should be alert to this audacity, and see to it that the boys and girls are not trapped by clever advertising psychology into accepting cigarette smoking as merely a harmless diversification of vigorous young athletes. It is injurious to growing youth and is never beneficial to anybody. Those who have the best interests of boys and girls at heart, rather than the commercial interests of tobacco corporations and cigar stores, will un-

qualifiedly condemn the use of tobacco in any form during the growing years. They will also resent the effrontery of cigarette advertisers in the false implications of picturing alongside a package of cigarettes the appealing figure of an attractive athlete. The repetition of such associations in the minds of boys and girls is insidious. It is another illustration of the exploitation of the spirit of youth for selfish, commercial ends, and it should be stopped, by law or otherwise. A program of education to counteract this insidious propaganda should be launched in every school in the state.—Louis Kulcinski, State Supervisor Physical Education, Illinois; in Illinois High-School Athlete.

Debating Provides Valuable Training

(Continued from Page One)

in speech," he said, "we need regular class room work for those who are normal but not particularly gifted in speech and then, upon these foundations, we may safely build a program of extra-curricular activities in debating, public speaking, and dramatics for that superior group of students capable of profiting from such unusual opportunities."

Amarillo Debars High-School Frats

(Continued from Page One)

smearing red paint across faces, saying prayers to Allah, kneeling in front of downtown stores.

Mr. Norman thinks that the fraternities have never gained the power in the Amarillo schools that have led to near breaks in other cities' discipline. He cites incidents in which football teams have been disrupted and school politics have been dictated by fraternities. In one of the large western cities the superintendent was dismissed and a bitter fight was caused in the fight to regulate the fraternity affairs.

His idea, which is carried out in the pledge, is to keep fraternity affairs out of the school life.

He would not keep the students from attending the fraternity dances, or eliminate any social function which they attend as non-members. He would give the boy or girl which activity is preferred, school or fraternity.

Two Rules To Be Enforced.

Two rules will be enforced with the punishment of suspension for failure to comply. The first is that any member of a fraternity on entering school must drop his membership if he expects to enter any school activity; the second that boys or girls who are not members now cannot enter during the school year.

"An example of this last rule can be found in the football team," he said. "If a boy plays in any game he cannot enter a fraternity at the end of the football season without becoming liable to the penalty."

An extensive survey has found that high-school superintendents, faculties, and school boards over the entire state are opposed to the high-school fraternity. Lubbock high school recently passed a rule by which fraternity members would be expelled from school.—Amarillo News, October 3.

The Little Theatre of the Last Frontier Carries On

(Continued from Page One)

the valley Mrs. McCoy makes her winter home and during her residence there she directs and develops the histrionic talent of her neighbors.

Her little group might well be termed a perambulating organization—it has a membership scattered in a dozen or more communities. Rehearsals are conducted in a centrally located town, but when a production is ready for public view it is given in each of the valley towns in turn.

The plan of the organization consists of a local unit in each community. One representative of each unit is a member of the central board of management, of which Mrs. McCoy is chairman. And a number of retired professionals, who have exchanged the excitement of the footlights for the more placid pleasures of growing oranges and grapefruit, give assistance and advice.

During the first season a total of twenty-six performances were given in as many communities, making use of the local high-school auditoriums—all of them adapted for play production, unlike the great majority of our high-school buildings in the East.—Theatre Magazine, October, 1930.

The little-matter of distinguishing one, two, and three—in a word number and calculation—do not all art and sciences necessarily partake of them?—Plato.