

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
of the
ADVISORY EDUCATIONAL GROUP

Report of Meeting
December 28, 1933

The following were present: Dr. Kelly, Dr. Ryan, Dr. Sherbon, Dr. Sundwall, Dr. Sutton, Dr. Turner, Dr. Dublin, Dr. Lanza, Miss Jean, Miss Williamson and Dr. Armstrong.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Armstrong who expressed the hope that it would be feasible to call a meeting of all members of the Advisory Educational Group at the end of 1934. He announced that Miss Louise Strachan, Director of Child Health Education, National Tuberculosis Association, had accepted an invitation to join the Advisory Educational Group.

REPORTS

Miss Williamson made a brief report of the significant features of the development of the Company's school health work during the past year:

1. Conferences, literature distribution and correspondence have been continued according to the same general plan followed in previous years. Interesting trends in correspondence are an increase in the number of letters from school superintendents with a corresponding decrease in the number received from teachers; and an increase in letters from professional schools for teachers.
2. The Teacher Education Committee has prepared much needed material for professional schools for teachers, ("Health Programs in Professional Schools for Teachers" and "A Study of the Health Education Courses in the Maryland State Normal School at Towson"). It has been suggested by a member of the Advisory Educational Group that we follow these studies with another one on the work of graduates of the State Normal School at Towson in the classrooms where they are now engaged.
3. A monograph for possible publication on "Illustrative Phases of School Health Programs with Suggestions of Integration" has been prepared by our committee on Integrated School Health Programs. It should be helpful to administrators interested in the subject.

4. A manuscript has been prepared under the supervision of the Committee on Food Publication. However, it has not been accepted by the committee and further revision may be necessary.
5. The Committee on Elementary School Publications is considering the publication of a manuscript for younger children.
6. The monograph on The Nature of Bacteria has helped to stimulate the teachers' interest in scientific aspects of health. There is need for another study on this subject with more direct application to public health. (It was suggested in the meeting that a film or film strip be prepared dealing with the teaching of the nature of bacteria).
7. Scientific up-to-date information in regard to recent discoveries which have health implications has been provided to 115,000 teachers each month through the Health Bulletin for Teachers. (A demonstration on the value of preparing corresponding and related material for parents, teachers and children using a future issue of the Health Bulletin for Teachers was considered advisable by the group.)
8. Attitudinal material for junior and senior high school students is being distributed to encourage appreciation of the progress man has made in acquiring and applying scientific knowledge in advancing health and lengthening life. (There was a discussion at the meeting as to whether the new Wall Chart to accompany Health Through The Ages should be enlarged and mounted on heavier paper or distributed on the basis of one to each student. It was decided to await the reaction of educators to our present policy of distribution - one chart to a classroom - before further plans are developed.)
9. The Custodian and the School Child has been revised to assist in meeting the increased demand for material for custodians and janitors.

A progress report was made by Mr. Kelly on the activities of his Committee on Cooperation with State Departments of Education. He said that a statement is being prepared by Miss Joun and Miss Williamson to present to the committee of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association which is studying the organization of the educational services by the Federal Government. It will be suggested in this statement that if the Office of Education is provided with sufficient facilities, the laws governing

this office permit rendering satisfactory service to aid in the development of the country's school health program.

Dr. Bindwall reported on the activities of the Health Essentials Committee. He said that a manuscript suitable for publication as a School Health Bureau monograph would soon be submitted.

Representatives of the American Child Health Association gave a brief resume of "An Investigation of Uncorrected Physical Defects in New York City School Children". This study was conducted in the New York City schools by the American Child Health Association in cooperation with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, at the request of the City authorities. The main object was to find out why severe uncorrected defects in school children have not been corrected. The chief value of this study lies in the prompting of new procedures and of necessary changes in old procedures, within present budgetary limitations.

NEW PROJECTS DISCUSSED

1. Is the Company justified in considering a suitable school safety program, and can it be developed and conducted through our present school contacts, in a manner that will add to, rather than detract from, our existing school health work?

The group felt that a positive approach is essential in a school safety program and that it should be carried out in cooperation with existing agencies.

Vocational schools would offer a good opportunity for cooperation.

Two publications suggested were: (a) A booklet for teachers giving fundamental principles and material which would promote the desire to develop individual projects. The suggestions given should be so concrete as to help the teacher get the message across to the children. (b) A pamphlet on safety in the home, starting it with the child's first experiences and continuing with his everyday contacts and experiences. This booklet should stress care in the use of modern inventions, particularly electrical appliances.

The group recommended that a committee be appointed to conduct a thorough study of this matter and to develop, with the assistance of the members of the Welfare Division staff, a suggested program for early consideration.

2. What is the effect on the health of school children of attendance at moving pictures?

Recent studies have brought out the fact that eleven million children under fourteen years of age and twenty-eight million minors attend movies every week, spending from three to nine hours visiting theatrical showings. Is there a health hazard in having children sit in darkened space so many hours a week?

The studies also indicate that children's attitudes are influenced to a tremendous degree by motion pictures. Does this situation create a mental hygiene problem?

The group recommended that a committee be appointed to consider existing data and current studies with a view to determining whether the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company should enter this field of investigation.

3. The group endorsed a cooperative study of the school health activities of the American Child Health Association, the National Tuberculosis Association and the School Health Bureau of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, with a view to the possible coordination of future work in this field.

4. It was decided that a subcommittee be appointed to collect all school health appraisal forms now in use in the United States, with the view of using these as a basis for the possible development of a standard form.

5. It was recommended that a committee be appointed to investigate the best methods of developing a closer cooperation between health education activities of the school and health education activities in the home.