



THE campaign to employ paint as a medium for modernization, which gained considerable momentum some ten or twelve years ago, then was brought almost to a standstill during the war, is due for a revival.

A modernizing job that may well point the way for many others of the same type where somewhat similar conditions prevail, was recently completed under the direction of the Board of Education of Schenectady, New York, in the Howe School in that city.

Long an exponent of the use of paint to provide better classroom environments for school children, assistant superintendent of Schenectady schools Tullack M. Townsend began to put his ideas into practice several years ago. The war intervened before the program was well under way but since the close of hostilities, the renovation of the Howe School has been completed. "Dutch Boy" materials—white lead and lead mixing oil—were used on the job.

This project, serving the purpose of a "pilot" job to show the way for the renovation of other Schenectady schools, has several interesting features. A series of color schemes was developed by R. H. McFadden of National Lead Company. Six of the schemes were designed for use in rooms exposed to considerable

sunlight. Six other color combinations were devised for rooms which do not get direct sunlight. All of the colors, however, have a light reflection value of more than 75 per cent, so that all rooms would be well lighted.

The half dozen "cool" colors chosen for the sunnyside rooms included light green, turquoise, gray, gray green, light blue and green blue. The "warm" colors picked for the shaded rooms were peach, ashes of roses (which the pupils have dubbed "strawberry ice cream"), dusty pink, light buff, light brown and light canary. Bone white was selected for all ceilings. The woodwork has been painted the color of the walls, thus brightening the rooms and adding to their apparent size. The teachers and, to a certain extent, the pupils, were allowed to choose the color schemes they wanted. Thus the school as a whole has none of the "institution look" common to buildings which have all rooms painted the same monotonous drab color.

School painting is, by and large, a summer vacation proposition. Perhaps this Schenectady modernization project may put a bee in the bonnets of those of our painter friends who are acquainted with or have access to members of their local school boards.