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MORE QUALIFIED TEACHERS NEEDED

Changing Attitudes Aid Handicapped Children

By Manley Ellis
Professor of Education

Foremost among the factors in the recent phenomenal increase in the education of handicapped children is the change in attitude toward children in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth. Dickens' novels, particularly *David Copperfield* and *Oliver Twist*, clearly indicate the callous, even cruel attitude toward children in Victorian England. One can sense much the same view in this country in such books as Edward Eggleston's classic, *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*. Books on the history of education, as, for example, those of Cubberley give a more factual, if less dramatic account of the plight of children in this era.

At the beginning of the twentieth century "orphans' asylums" were abolished, and dependent children were placed in homes. State schools for blind, deaf and mentally handicapped children were established, and the first public school classes for handicapped children began to appear.

As the second, third and fourth decades of the century rolled around, more and more state legislatures enacted laws offering extra state aid to local school districts for the establishment and maintenance of special classes for the handicapped. The states also began to provide money for rehabilitation of handicapped adults.

Classes for the deaf, blind, crippled and other physically handicapped children have been receiving state aid in Michigan for about thirty years. A dozen years ago the mentally handicapped were added to the list. The visiting teacher law was passed in 1944. The state now pays three-fourths of the cost of special education. In the case of visiting teachers, teachers of the homebound and other consultant teachers, the state aid amounts to $4,750.00 for each qualified teacher employed. The generosity of the Michigan Legislature in its state aid program has greatly encouraged the growth of special education.

The greatest impetus to special
education in many a year was given it by the Legislature of 1955. That year a law was passed allowing counties to vote millage for special education and to establish county systems of special education. At least half the counties of Southern Michigan have either passed this millage and are in the process of organizing special classes or are contemplating such a vote. A great deal of credit should be given County Superintendents and Boards of Education for their foresight in taking advantage of this law.

Private or semi-private organizations such as the Michigan Association for Retarded Children, the Michigan Society for Crippled Children and others have greatly encouraged special education through the years, not only with words and propaganda, but also with money. They have funds for research, scholarships and experimental programs. Some or more local organizations like the Kellogg Foundation, the Kalamazoo Foundation and the Rackham Fund have helped local projects in special education. For example, the Kalamazoo Foundation is providing money to help in maintaining special classes of crippled, mentally handicapped and speech defective children during the present summer. The Kalamazoo schools and Western Michigan University cooperate in running the program.

A major bottleneck in newly-established special education programs such as the new county systems mentioned above is to find qualified teachers. There are teacher education curricula in the various areas of special education at Eastern, Central and Western Michigan Universities, also at Michigan State and Wayne State Universities. The University of Michigan has cooperative curricula with Eastern Michigan University. In some areas of the field it is possible for the teacher to obtain temporary approval, and later when he completes the requirements, full approval. This helps greatly in supplying teachers for new programs.

Seven Fellowships

One thousand dollar graduate fellowships have been granted by the University to seven persons for the 1959-60 academic year. They include Jack D. Fox, Wade S. Jones, Lyle R. McAuley and Richard D. Murphy, WMU graduates; and Benton L. Ripperdan, Tarkio, Mo., College; Miss Margaret Lee, Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan; and Shigenobu Sadoya, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

J. Thomas Dickinson, 3502 Devonshire, Kalamazoo, and a June graduate of Kalamazoo Central high, has been named the recipient of the $500 John E. and Edwin S. Fox scholarship in physics at the university.

The objective of special education, which is prosecuted with almost missionary zeal by everyone involved in any aspect of it, is: the education of all the children of all the people. Nothing less will do.

TV Classes Not Complete Answer

College classroom experience in physics is preferable to TV courses, said 46 students who participated in the first semester Continental Classroom series under the direction of Dr. Stanley Derby, assistant professor of physics.

Meeting on campus once each two weeks, after having viewed 6:30 a.m. courses five mornings each week over WOOD-TV, the students and instructor were unanimous in their feelings.

Dr. Derby states that TV does not provide as satisfactory a learning situation for beginning students as does the regular classroom. More advanced students may gain equally from both mediums.

The inability to ask on-the-spot questions of the TV instructor is considered the greatest deficiency of education TV by these Western Michigan participants.
Miss Alberta Brown, left, Upjohn Company librarian, and Dr. Katharine Stokes, director of the Western Michigan University Waldo Library, look over a part of the collection of duplicate chemical patents being presented to the University.

Duplicate Patent Collection Given By Upjohn

The Upjohn Company has presented a set of duplicate patents in the field of chemistry to the library of Western Michigan University. This collection includes 7,500 United States patents and 2,000 foreign patents with a total value of $5,375. Most of the foreign patents are from Canada, Great Britain, and Australia with a small number from South Africa and European countries.

This gift is of great usefulness to students of chemistry since a great deal of information is included in them that is not covered by articles in regular chemical journals. Every student of chemistry should have some grounding in the use of chemical patents, and the addition of this collection to the library makes such training possible. Patents can be located through the use of Chemical Abstracts by both number and subject headings.

This collection of patents will be filed according to country and number. Francis Allen, the technical librarian, will attempt to have them ready for use as soon as possible. They will be housed temporarily in the closed stacks.

Three Earn Doctorates

Three new doctorates on the WMU faculty are Dr. Edward T. Callan, University of South Africa, an assistant professor of English; Lee O. Baker, Michigan State University, an assistant professor of agriculture and biology; and Miss Katharine Stokes, librarian, University of Michigan.

Applications for '59 Admissions Continue Ahead

All expectations are for a busy 1959-60 academic year on the University campus. Applications have continued ahead of a year ago, and with a noticeable trend upward in the quality of students applying for admission.

A significant new feature this year will be the opening of a freshman honors program for which 60 outstanding students have been selected. Selection was based upon high school records, interest in the program, and through a personal interview with Dr. Robert M. Limpus, director of basic studies.

During July a large number of freshmen students have visited the campus, completed the required testing program, counselled regarding their studies, and completed their enrollment for the fall. Undergraduate registration will take place Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 14 and 15, with classes beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16. Graduate registration will precede this on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The housing situation will be somewhat eased, with the opening of the new John C. Hockje residence for men, with rooms for 400. Also under construction is a new residence for women, adjacent to Davis and Zimmerman halls, which will accommodate 300 and will be ready sometime in 1960. Ready this fall will be 96 new apartments for married students, north of the University Student Center. This brings to 288 the rental units.

Construction work is continuing on the $165,000 addition to the Paper Industry Laboratories, made possible through a gift from the Calder Foundation.

With nearly 8,500 students expected this fall, and no increase in classroom and laboratory accommodations, Registrar Clayton J. Maus reports that they will be accommodated by starting classes before 8 a.m. and continuing them later.
Alumni Role in Homecoming Greater

An increasing role for alumni in the annual fall homecoming celebrations of the University is planned by the student-faculty committee working on the 1959 event.

In the future the president of the WMU Alumni Association will automatically serve as the grand marshall for the big pre-game parade through Kalamazoo and to the stadium.

Outstanding alumni leaders are also being selected to serve on the major committees preparing the activities.

Ray Bray, one of the Broncos all-time great gridders and a longtime star of the Chicago Bears, will be the luncheon speaker for alumni preceding the game this year.

Homecoming has been set for Saturday, October 17, with football opposition from Washington University of St. Louis. “Remember When . . . ?” is the intriguing theme chosen by the central committee for the parade, house decorations and other events.

Attending the pep rally October 16 will be members of the 1906 football team, including Howard Doolittle, Lynn Deal, Delos Flower, Jay Grover, Emery Howard, Charles Johnson, Henry MacNaughton, Howard Rice, Marion Sherwood and Volny Stuck. Now deceased, but also members of the team were: Clifford Ball, Stanley Claffin, Gail Hambleton and Melvin Myers.

Major Saturday events for alumni will be the noon parade, the 2 p.m. football game at Waldo Stadium, preceded by the luncheon at the student center, and in the evening the University Student Center will be turned over to alumni for their annual reception. In the ballroom Bobby Davidson’s orchestra will play for dancing.

Special Supplement

As a special feature of the October issue of the Western Michigan University News Letter there will be an insert listing all new faculty appointed for the current year, and including their pictures and brief biographical descriptions. The insert is planned so that it may be removed from the News Letter proper and saved.

1959 Football

Sept. 19—at Central Michigan
Sept. 26—Miami University
Oct. 3—Marshall College
Oct. 10—at Bowling Green
Oct. 17—Washington University
Oct. 24—at Toledo
Oct. 31—at Ohio
Nov. 7—Kent State University
Nov. 14—University of Detroit

Plan Help for Chemical Library

The Library Committee of the Chemical Advisory Committee is composed of chemists in industry who are attempting to help Western build a first-rate chemical library. They are seeking help from those who have scientific journals. Any scientific periodicals in complete files can be used by the University Library either for their own collection or, where duplication occurs, on the Interlibrary Exchange. If you have journals available, send a card to the Chemistry Department and arrangements will be made to pick up the journals or to have them sent by freight.

The Library Committee is also asking that memorials be given to the Library. Books will be purchased and a plate inserted with the name of the donor and the name of the individual in whose memory the gift is given. Memorials may be sent directly to the Library, and a card acknowledging the gift will be sent to the family of the individual in whose memory it is given.

Two Upjohn Company Merit Scholars have indicated they will enroll at the University next fall. They are Miss Mary Gaskell, Albion, elementary education, and Paul M. Sivacek, South Haven, mathematics and sciences.