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ECHOS FROM THE FIELD

Lois VanDenBerg

The Secondary Reading Department in the Kalamazoo Public Schools is attempting a new dimension in its program. It is generally assumed that one person cannot adequately diagnose students with serious reading deficiencies. For this reason plans are being made to hold case conferences on certain students who have not made progress in reading. The conference will be a clinical approach to the problem with the hope of accomplishing the following:

- a. to attempt to determine the causal factors inhibiting reading
- b. to assist in the interpretation of the various standardized and informal methods of evaluation and to determine the need for further testing
- c. to compile all known information for the purpose of an objective diagnosis
- d. to plan a course of treatment which will tend to eliminate or modify factors inhibiting progress
- e. to develop an appropriate teaching approach to reading for individuals
- f. to enlist support of members of the staff to aid the particular students.

The conference participants will include Kalamazoo Public School personnel, and allied disciplines such as medical-psychiatric agencies who have had some contact with a particular case or who have specific training and skill to aid in determining the factors which have inhibited reading. These participants would aid in setting up an appropriate reading program.

The success of these conferences will depend upon the success of the student in his academic areas. The nature of the evaluation will therefore be long termed.