

The Effect on Health.

"The second objective of the all-year schools is to prove that school work in summer is not injurious to health. The health of children and teachers in these schools has been uniformly good. The Department of Medical Inspection is vigilant and the school nurses are watchful and thoroughly efficient. The physicians in charge of these schools report that in their opinion 'the general health of the pupils has been better than if the children had not attended school.' The percentage of attendance on the enrollment in the schools is generally higher in the summer than in other schools during the year.

"Inquiry in the home reveals the fact that parents believe the children are better off in the large, cool, pleasant class-rooms than in the streets or even at home. Pupils concerning whose physical fitness there is any doubt are not admitted. In several summers there have been very few pupils whom teachers thought might better have stayed at home.

"To answer the question as to the effect on teachers: Referring to the oldest school as typical—there were fifty teachers in the school when the plan was adopted. Seven have been transferred to other schools, five have been promoted to higher positions in other schools, two have gone to other cities, sixteen have married, and twenty are still in the school. Of these, fifteen have taught from three to eight successive summers out of the eight since the school was made an all-year school. Of the sixteen teachers who resigned to be married, twelve taught from three to six successive summers without injury to their health.

"Attendance of pupils and service of teachers in the summer are voluntary. If teachers in a school do not care to teach, there are always a number of experienced teachers of given grades from other schools who gladly accept the positions. The testimony of the teachers almost without exception is that there are no detrimental effects upon their health. They say that it has not been impaired by extra work. Some say they return to school in September somewhat lacking in the buoyancy and freshness characteristic of those who have had two or three months' vacation. Others say they prefer to teach in the summer not only because of the extra salary but because the long vacation is tiresome and they have no regular work to do. Therefore, it seems to be demonstrated that the health of the pupils and teachers is not injured by the summer work."

The Gain in Time When the Health of Pupils Permits.

(Particularly in the case of foreign children entering our schools from foreign schools).

"The all-year plan provides a way by which ambitious children may save time in getting an education. By continuous attendance for three years a pupil may finish a four-year course. The speed of the work ought not to be greater than the pupil's ability to assimilate knowledge or more rapid than his mental development.