

3. The installation of increased equipment for the teaching of history, geography, nature study, or elementary science, and literature, making it possible to "realize" the teaching of these subjects to a greater extent than at present.
4. Increasing the amount and improving the character of hand training in the grades below the Junior Fourth.
5. Increasing the fineness of grading the children so as to make class instruction more nearly individual.
6. Establishing regular semi-annual promotions in all grades and where possible encouraging promotion at any other time in the year without the changing of rooms.
7. The removal of all mental defectives to special rooms.

CLASS-ROOM INSTRUCTION

The Bureau representative observed teaching in at least one class of each grade in the school. The "esprit de corps" of the teaching staff is excellent and the professional ability of the teachers, whose work was observed, was of a high order. It is unnecessary here to go into details of class-room technique. The district inspection and the constant supervision of the principal, as well as the professional training and experience of the teachers themselves, explain the almost entire absence in the lessons observed of those minor errors in technique which are so commonly in evidence in the class-room. The really serious shortcomings of the instruction in the Park School are not due in any sense to the teaching staff, but to the limitations of the course of study, the absence of equipment and material necessary to obtain the best results and other conditions over which the schools themselves have no control. The Park School is the centre of a community which, of course, differs in some respects from any other in the city, and greatly from many. Yet there has been no differentiation in the course of study, in the emphasis laid on the various elements of the course, or in methods of presentation. The school is a typical academic school doing good work under its limitations but producing results for the community falling far short of the ideal or even the possible. That the authorities believe that the tone of the school should be relieved of its severely academic character is shown by the action of the Board in introducing into the Senior 4th, Junior 4th and Senior 3rd grades, cooking and sewing classes, now in operation, and manual training classes to be in operation next September*. But this is only beginning. What is needed is not an addition to the course so much as a transformation of the work of the class-room as a whole through a change in the emphasis and in methods of instruction. The Park School children, like the pupils of most public schools on this continent, need less text book and more teacher, less theory and more practice, less explanation and more purposeful activity, less learning by absorption and more learning by doing, no less information by proxy but more information by first-hand experience. For example, Geography is a science and is, therefore,

*These, of course, are now in operation.