

AN EXPERIMENT IN GRADING CHILDREN*

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THE PLAN OF THE EXPERIMENT

THE experiment in grading children, in Public School 64, Manhattan, has now reached the end of its third year.

The relation of the many aspects of the work that have evolved from time to time will be more clearly understood if the progress of the experiment is traced from its original outline.

The original plan was to test psychologically and physically every child who enters school, and on the basis of these findings, to classify them in tentative groups for purposes of teaching. By this means it was hoped eventually to know the human material in a school of 3,200 children in such a way that no talent, no defect, no individual need would go un-noted. Each entering class in a school of such size contains from 100 to 200 six-year-old children. In addition to these each term brings new children into the grades already studied and classified. The first seven grades, from 1A to 4A inclusive, in P.S. 64, including thirty classes and about 1,000 children, have thus far been classified. From this sorting have come, as was anticipated, the following types of classes:

- I. **TERMAN CLASSES**, for very superior and gifted children. A special enriched curriculum is provided which obviates the skipping of grades by bright children. These comprise 4 classes with registers of 25 each.
- II. **SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE AVERAGE CLASSES**, for children able to do about the same work but a little more intensively than the average and occasionally to make an extra term. These comprise 7 classes with registers of from 30 to 40 each.
- III. **AVERAGE CLASSES**, for children mentally and physically normal. These comprise 7 classes with registers of about 40 each.
- IV. **SLIGHTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE CLASSES**, for slower children, who are not definitely backward. These classes exist only where the grades are large enough in number for three regular groups. Not all grades have them, therefore there are at present but 2 classes, with registers of 40 each.
- V. **OPPORTUNITY CLASSES**, for children definitely backward but not mental defectives. This group is most in need of a special curriculum. A beginning has hardly been made in handling them. The registers are smaller than in the average classes. The register does not exceed 30, and especially patient teachers have been assigned. There are at present 3 classes of this character.

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