

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provides a 15-minute radio programme, "Kindergarten of the Air", for pre-school children five days a week from autumn to spring.

Elementary and Secondary Education

Enrolment in the elementary and secondary schools has been increasing year by year, until in 1963-64 there were 4,584,226 pupils enrolled in the public schools, 212,872 in the private schools and about 20,000 in the business colleges.

Each September, the six-year-olds enter the first year of elementary school, where they study for six, seven or eight years, before entering junior high school or the traditional high school. A small number leave the academic stream for technical secondary schools or trade schools and many enter composite schools, where they have a choice of courses. After completing 12 or 13 grades or years successfully, students who took the academic or college preparatory course continue on to college or to university. Others may enter post-secondary technical institutes or professional training in nursing schools, teachers' colleges outside the universities, business schools and the like. Of those who enter university, about 10 per cent who began Grade I, may take arts, science, commerce, education, and complete their courses in three years if they enter with senior matriculation or four if they take honours. Those taking the professional courses will generally require longer to obtain their first degree and may be expected to have taken preparatory science or arts courses before enrolling. Some graduates will study for at least one extra year to obtain a master's degree or three extra years for a doctorate. Recently, post-doctorate courses have been offered. Canadian universities graduated 25,221 with first degrees, 3,152 with masters' degrees in 1963, and 481 with doctorates in 1964.

The 8-4 plan leading from Grade I to university was for many years the basic plan for organizing the curriculum and schools, other than the Quebec Catholic schools. It is still followed in many rural, village and town schools, and in some cities. However, this plan has been modified over the years in most provinces, cities, or groups of schools, since it seemed to be inadequate to meet the demands arising from new educational aims. There are a number of variants at present to be found in Canada. For example, there is the addition of one, or even two, kindergarten years at the beginning of the system. An extra year has been added to high school, providing five rather than four years of secondary schooling. Junior high schools have been introduced and the resulting organization changed to 6-3-3, 6-3-4, 7-3-3 or 7-4-2 plans. As an alternative, the first six years of elementary school have been combined into two units of three years, each designed to reach certain specified goals during a three-year period. A few junior colleges affiliated with universities have been organized offering the last one or two years of high school and the first one or two years of college; Quebec has introduced a two-year institute between high school and university.

Introduction of one or other of these plans depends to some extent on a sufficient number of pupils, either living in prescribed areas such as cities or brought together by the reorganization of rural areas into larger units, with regional schools provided for high-school pupils. These larger units may be formed exclusively from rural areas, or from rural, village and