

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

February 26, 1907

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING**In City's Public Schools.****New Department Has Amply Proved Its Value.****May Be Extended Next Year.****Board Desires To Give Children More Complete Course.****Work in Manual Training and Domestic Science Department of Practical Nature--Students Show Interest in Various Branches of Work.**

Although the department of a manual training and domestic science was only established in the Memphis city schools on the present basis with the beginning of the present scholastic year last fall, its value and importance have already been so impressed upon the members of the board of education that it is probable that the scope of the work of the department will be greatly enlarged and broadened during the coming school year. The members of the board realize the growing tendency in modern educational methods toward industrial training and the arrangement on the other courses of study in public schools, so that instead of a merely academic training the students may be sent out from the public schools fitted to begin lives of usefulness and self-support if necessary, immediately upon graduation.

The courses of study outlined for the present year in this department of the city schools is largely preliminary, as in many of the classes of the work is not at present carried so far as the members of the board and the instructors in this department would wish. But it was decided, upon establishing the manual training department last year, to begin on a somewhat small scale and to work gradually toward an increase in the number of branches taught and toward a general enlargement of the department.

There has already been considerable discussion among members of the board of education for the advisability of securing

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a new site and erecting a central industrial training school for the grammar and high school grades. This matter is however, still in obeyance and will not probably be taken up during the present year, as there are other demands upon the school funds which the members of the board feel must be first met, in the way of new buildings for the primary and grammar grades and the enlargement of a number of the present buildings which will entail the securing of additional teachers and a consequent enlarged expenditure next year for the current expenses of the schools.

At the beginning of the fall school term last year the board secured the services of Prof. E. E. Utterback as director of of the manual training and domestic science departments. Mr. Utterback has had an experience of a number of years in this work in the South, coming here directly from Atlanta. He has thoroughly organized the department, and the board is entirely pleased with the progress that has been made under his direction. He has two assistants at the high school, Prof. H. S. Paschal for the boy's classes and Miss Mable Lutes, the instructor in the domestic science classes of the girls.

Work In Primary Grades

The work in the primary and grammar grades is under the charge of the regular teachers in each school under Prof. Utterback's direction, each class being given a total of 100 minutes a week for the work in this department. This includes in the primary grades, paper cutting, simple designing, drawing and water color painting. In the grammar grades various useful articles are made of paper and cardboard, and besides being taught to make them the students at the same time estimate the cost of the articles made, thus securing practical training in many of the regular studies in this department also.

At the high school building the girls in the grades up to and including the ninth are all given instructions in domestic science, while the boys in the same grades study carpentry and woodworking in many branches. The tenth grade is exempt from these studies this year, but it is probably that the board of education will make them compulsory next year, as it has been found that a large majority of the students wish to continue them and also that one year's training does not give the children the training necessary

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to make their work of permanent value to them in after life, which is what the members of the board desire to accomplish.

Boy's High School Work

The rooms in which the boys classes are conducted have been fitted up in the basement of the High School building. Here the board has installed some twenty completely fixed up carpenter's work benches and also a number of woodworking machines, turning lathes and other apparatus, so that a complete course of carpentry and woodworking can be practically taught. There are about 150 boys of the High School in these classes, and the more advanced have become quite expert journeymen carpenters, turning out a great many useful articles. The boys are, many of them, so much interested in their work that they ask permission to remain after school hours and sometimes to use the tools and machines on Saturdays.

Naturally, perhaps, the boys classes are not so interesting to the patrons of the schools and the general public as the classes in the domestic science department under Miss Lutes charge. Two rooms were designated for these classes at the beginning of the school year, one being fitted up as the kitchen and demonstration room, the other for a dining room and lecture room. The number of students in the High School this year, however, has been so large that the classes have recently been confined to one room. This was designed for a class of twenty girls, but Miss Lutes has usually from twenty-five to thirty girls in each class. The girls and boys in these departments each have about two hours instruction a week, the classes alternating on different days.

Instruction in the domestic science classes, like that in the entire industrial department, is extremely practical, the students being required to cook each article of food themselves, either on the large gas ranges or on the small gas stoves which are provided on each working table. While this is in progress Miss Lutes gives a brief lecture on the chemical properties and food values of the articles which is to be cooked. The girls show the most eager interest in the lectures, as well as in the practical part of the work, and their parents seem only less interested, visitors to this department being present almost every day.

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Closely connected with the manual training and domestic science department is the business department, with which was also established last year, in charge of Prof. G.A. Macon. There are a number of students in this department, studying bookkeeping, business procedure and typewriting, and this department also is to be enlarged as soon as possible as it has been found that more room will be needed for it next year. The work done is precisely the same as that conducted in regular business colleges, and the students are all reported as making remarkable progress.

In connection with this subject, there has been some discussion as to the introduction of industrial training on a larger scale in the city. Several of the board of education favor eventually making the negro High School a regular school for industrial training, cutting out some of the so-called higher branches from the curriculum and giving at least three-fourths of the time to manual training and domestic science.

Speaking of this matter, one member of the board said recently:

"There is no question in my mind that the best training for the negroes is industrial training. Some members of the race would, of course, protest against such action on the part of the board of education, but I am certain that this course will eventually be taken. This is the training that the negro boys and girls need to fit them for useful lives. Few of them ever receive it at home, and therefore the cities must give it to them. It will be not alone for their own benefit but for the public good, for if we teach them to do better work they will earn better wages, and thus not only help themselves, but become more helpful to the city and the state."