

## VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

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One of the criticisms most frequently made of public education is that little or no provision is made for vocational guidance. And it is true that the great majority of our high school and college graduates have no definite idea as to what they would like to do or what they are fitted to do.

Albemarle High School has adopted a plan whereby a limited number of select pupils may have an opportunity to receive some vocational training during the senior year. The plan is not original with us. However, it is still somewhat in the experimental stage. It was first adopted in Carmel, New York, where it has been given a more thorough trial perhaps than elsewhere. More recently a number of more progressive schools throughout the country are experimenting with it. Two such schools in North Carolina are Greensboro and Elizabeth City.

The success of the plan in Albemarle will depend upon the seriousness of purpose of those pupils undertaking it and upon the supervision the school and the business and professional men of Albemarle are able to give. Quite a number of business and professional men have expressed their approval of the experiment and their willingness to enter into its spirit wholeheartedly.

Briefly, the plan is as follows: Each pupil who applies for consideration and is accepted by the school will do three hours of regular school work in the morning and three hours of work in the afternoon in his chosen occupation. The pupil would be required to drop only one study in the high school, and that study must be an elective and not a required subject. The pupil would be allowed one unit of credit for the work done in the afternoon. The State Department of Education has given its approval of the plan as outlined above.

Seventy or more seniors have expressed a desire to participate in the program. It will be impossible to accept the applications of all these, however, for the reason that so large a number could not be properly supervised. Moreover, it is felt that we should venture slowly into a plan of this kind. My feeling is that it has great possibilities, particularly for pupils seeking employment soon after graduation from high school. Perhaps the pupil who is trying to decide what course of study to pursue in college would profit no less from a taste of the job he has in mind.

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