

LEXINGTON HI-Y CLUB ENTER-TAINS FACULTY

The Lexington Hi-Y Club met in the High School building Thursday night, November 13 for a special program in honor of members of the faculty and of the Supervisory committee.

The meeting opened in the formal way by the repeating of the Lord's Prayer. A reading from the Bible was then given and discussed by Fred Wilson. The subject of his talk was "The Prodigal Son." He compared it with the Hi-Y mottoes.

The musical program was then given by Miss Myers and Herbert Waters. Several selections were effectively rendered by them. Following this several new members were initiated into the club.

The president of the club called for talks from members of the Supervisory Committee. Mr. Gamewell told the club how it should help people to keep a community clean. This was followed by a talk from Rev. Odell Leonard and Mr. Olive. Mr. Cowles also made a talk to the club about what it could do to help raise the standard of morale in the school. The meeting was then adjourned.

SEASONS OF GLADNESS

Autumn, Autumn, now is here,
And with it comes the time of year
When all the leaves will fall and die,
And the wind begins to moan and sigh

And then the winter months draw near
And with them comes the Christmas cheer,
And holidays so bright and fair,
That we feel we must cast away all care.

And then the spring when flowers bloom
And all the buds burst from their tomb;
And everything seems so bright and gay
For June is here with vacation day

Listener—during debate—"Which side are you on?"
Nona Raper—wearily—"I wish I was on the out side."

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

When Mississippi enacted its initial law on the subject in 1918 it was the last of the forty-eight States to pass a law requiring the attendance of children at school. Some of these laws are not yet very stringent, but the tendency is to make them stronger as time passes and experience points the way. According to the Department of the Interior, a dozen years ago hardly a State required attendance above the age of 14. Now thirty-two States fix 16 as the age to which attendance must continue, unless certain prescribed conditions have been previously met; and seven other States fix ages higher than 16 as the upper limit.

The prevailing lower age limit is 7; for twenty-seven States name this as the age for beginning required attendance. In two States 6 is the lower limit. Clearly the present standard in America is that children between the ages of 7 and 16 must go to school.

The attendance required each year is an important element in a compulsory education law. Exactly three-fourth of the States require attendance for the full public-school term. In only two cases is the minimum requirement less than 100 days annually.

Of the thirty-two States requiring attendance to the age of 16 under certain conditions a number make the requirement absolute up to 14, but attendance between that age and 16 is contingent upon educational attainment. The standard which would seem to be taking definite form here is this: That the child must attend school until the age of 16 is reached, unless, being over 14, he has finished the elementary grades, has obtained an employment certificate, and has gone to work.

Exemptions from the operation of attendance laws are very similar in the different States. The exemptions of most frequent occurrence are: (1) A child attending an approved private or parochial school; (2) the physically or mentally incapacitated, usually as shown by a physician's certificate;

(3) a child residing more than a specified distance, as for example, two and one-half miles from school, unless transportation is furnished; (4) one over 14 whose services are needed for the support of a dependent parent or parents.

The tendency is toward reduction of the number of exempt classes. The provision of public conveyance for school children tends to take care of the child living at a distance from school, and widows' pensions are reducing dependence upon child labor. Exemption for the purpose of farm work is fast disappearing from attendance laws. A brief temporary exemption for the purpose of religious instruction is found in the laws of a few States, as Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and South Dakota.

On the whole, compulsory attendance at school has gained much ground in recent years. Age limits have been extended, the required annual attendance has been raised, the number of classes of exempted children has been reduced, and the means and methods of enforcement have been appreciably improved.

—Selected.

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