

Increased Number Of Births Make Impact Upon Public Schools; Better Attendance

Fewer Drop-outs and Greater Percentage of Promotions Change First Grade Situation According to Survey

The increase in the number of births in North Carolina since 1945 is now making its impact upon the public schools.

Total live births, according to statistics from the State Board of Health, increased from an average of 85,821 during the 8-year period 1938-1945 to an average of 109,030 during the 8-year period 1946-1953. For the more recent 8-year period, the number of live births totaled 872,240, whereas during the next preceding 8-year period the figure was 686,569. And for the period 1930-1937 the number of live births for the State totaled 618,614. The increase from the 1930-1937 period to the 1938-1945 period was 67,955, whereas the increase from the 1938-1945 period to the 1946-1953 period was 185,671. An average of 23,209 more children were born, the figures show, during each year of the more recent period than were born during the 1938-1945 period. Only 8,494 more-births, on an average, were annually recorded for each year of the 1938-1945 period than were recorded for the average year during the 1940-1937 period.

These facts have a direct bearing upon the public schools. Those children born during the early years of the most recent 8-year period are just now entering the first grade—those born in 1946 entered in 1951; those born in 1947 entered in 1952; and those born in 1948 entered in 1953.

According to the course of events, those children born in 1949, a total of 107,940 will enter school in the fall of 1954.

Other significant facts besides those concerning births are the following:

1. First grade for the white group enrollment decreases nearly consistently from 1931-32 to 1947-48, when for three years increases took place. Then for the next two years, 1950-51 and 1951-52, there were further decreases, followed by another increase to 70,892 in 1952-53.
2. Negro first grade enrollment has followed a decreasing trend from 1932-33 when the figure was 92,712 to 36,553 in 1952-53.
3. Figures relating to membership (last day of school) follow the same general trends for both groups.
4. Number and percentage of drop-outs have been downward in the main, to an almost static situation within recent years.
5. Number and percentage of promotions and non-promotions have been generally upward and downward, respectively. Figures for more recent years indicate a better school situation in respect to this grade.
6. Relationship of average daily membership to average daily attendance as reflected by the number and percentage of average daily absences also shows an improving trend for both groups.
7. And finally, the relationship in number between the first grade enrollment and the second grade enrollment of the succeeding year is becoming closer.

HEALTH HORIZONS

Increasing Mental Alertness: A Simple Key

A simple way to improve your work output and mental alertness is suggested by recent studies at the College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa.

The scientists' prescription for this improvement will probably surprise you. They have no new magic formula, and it's no expensive treatment. All they recommend is that you eat a good, sensible breakfast. They have found this by comparing the mental and physical efficiency of many groups during periods when they ate breakfast, and when they didn't. All their tests have shown that people, from young school boys to older men and women, show up best when they eat breakfast.



Fuel for Your Motor

This is as logical as it is simple. You wouldn't expect a motor to start without fuel, or to run most efficiently on inferior fuel. Your body and mind need fuel too—and that's food — especially after a long night's fast. Yet many of us think of breakfast as unimportant — rush off to a day's work with only a cup of coffee and a bite of toast. That's hardly being fair to ourselves, as you can see from the latest study of Dr. W. W. Tuttle and his associates at Iowa.

In this study 25 boys cooperated. It lasted for 26 weeks, divided alternately into two- or three-week periods of breakfast and no-breakfast. All this time, records were kept of the boys' work rate, work output, and school marks. When the test was over, two and two were put together, and here's what the scientists found: (1) Maximum work rate and maximum work output decreased during the no-breakfast periods, and

increased when the boys did eat breakfast. (2) Scholastic records improved during the periods when the boys had three, instead of two, meals a day. (3) Even the attitude toward school work improved during the breakfast-eating weeks; instead of being "careless, languid and listless during the late morning hours," the boys showed interest.

Start the Day Right

These improvements—in groups of all ages, remember, in previous studies — didn't result from a greater amount of food, because there was no difference. During the "no-breakfast" weeks, other meals were made a bit larger, to make the calorie intake the same. The difference is simply in starting the day right, with enough breakfast to supply muscles and mind with working power.

voice of conscience tells one man that a certain thing is all right, and another that it is wrong. Also, the still smaller voice becomes still smaller when it is constantly ignored. Further, the conscience may become so corrupted that it merely reflects our own sinful desires. Well does the Bible say that while the conscience accuses some of wrong doing, it excuses the wrong doing of others. No, conscience in itself is not a safe guide.

Does God speak through reason alone? O, proud, foolish man, that we exalt our own minds as the voice of God! Brilliant men often find themselves in hopeless disagreement. How do you know you may trust your reason? Because it seems reasonable to trust it? There is nothing so unreasonable as the exaltation of man's finite mind. Once again, reason by itself is no certain voice of God.

What is God's Word to men? Let me submit it is the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible. The Bible is the infallible, inerrant, verbally inspired Word of God. Every word, every syllable, every letter, every punctuation mark from the front cover to the back is authoritative as the Word of God. Even the covers are to be believed, for they say "The Holy Bible," and that's just what it is.

Jesus Himself extended the inspiration of the Scriptures to every jot and tittle. What did He mean by that? The "jot" (or "yodh") is the smallest

Hebrew letter, and it resembles an apostrophe (') both in form and in size. The "tittle" is the superfluous, unnecessary part of a letter. For example, the tittle of the letter J is the little horizontal line on top of the letter. Even that, says Jesus, is inspired. I have heard Bible believing Christians sneeringly referred to as Biblical literalists (which we most definitely are not!) because we believe that the words of the Bible are inspired. Jesus believed that the very letters are inspired; indeed that even the fancy little "extra" lines on the letters are inspired.

WHAT WILL TOMORROW'S WORLD BE LIKE?

With new inventions reported almost daily, a steady advancement in medicine and other sciences, do you wonder what the world of tomorrow will be like? You'll find the answer in "Postmark, 1979," fascinating illustrated feature in the October 17th issue of

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faith. The Bible speaks only to those who so read it, prayerfully seeking the mind of God. As Sir Walter Scott said,

Within this awful volume lies The mystery of mysteries: Happiest they of human race, To whom their God has given grace To read, to fear, to hope, to pray, To lift the latch, to force the way; But better had they ne'er been born, Who read to doubt, or read to scorn. —Sir Walter Scott.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.) 1826. J. Edwin Bufflap, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1954. Celia D. Spivey (My commission expires June 12, 1955.)

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