

EDITORIAL PAGE



THE ADVANCE

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EDITOR

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FOR THE KIDDIES

All over the United States this week is being celebrated as Baby Welfare Week, and instruction is being given to the ignorant and the careless along the lines of good health and normal development of the little one of the land.

To the nations at war has come the realization of the economic value of the child, and more attention is being paid to the care of their babies than ever in the history of these nations.

The United States has ranked twelfth in her infant mortality, losing 124 of every 1,000 babies born. But the nation as a whole and the separate states as well are on the alert as never before to lower this rate, and to rear "better babies" who will make better Americans. Carelessness of baby's health has been chiefly due to ignorance. Few people would harm a child if they knew the real needs of the little one.

Literature is sent now free by both State and Federal Health Departments on the care of the child, and the farm magazines and woman's magazines devote some space in each issue to this subject.

The Progressive Farmer a few weeks ago gave baby's menu from one year to five. Each year it urged that we "swat the fly," not nearly so much that grown up people may escape typhoid as for the more important reason that the babies of the land may be able to endure the hot summer months without sickness or death.

Statistics say that it costs forty per cent more now to bring up a baby than it did ten years ago. Perhaps half of this cost is due to the actual increase in the cost of living, but at least half is due to the change in the point of view. Whatever happened to a child was at one time attributed to the hand of Providence, whether it was typhoid fever or hookworm. Now we are learning better.

Baby Welfare Week has been inaugurated that this knowledge may be scattered throughout the land for the benefit of the least of these.

To the Wake Forest men of these parts time will turn back to-morrow night. The College Glee Club ought to make any man young again, and a handshake from "Hubert" will certainly complete the job. Some of the alumni may remember him as a babe in arms, others as a class mate, and still others as a professor, but we dare say that he is to all of them the only one of his kind. As a student, a musician, a Christian gentleman, and a loyal friend he was known in the days of old and continues to be

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known wherever he goes, and whatever honors are thrust upon him.

The Advance is proud of its out of town correspondents. News this winter from the schools of Currituck, Dare, Perquimans and Pasquotank has shown interesting progress, not only in the routine school work, but also in community cooperation and service.

Belvidere's big step in this direction last month, Currituck's courage in the face of the loss of her new high school building, and Dare's interest in baseball and debating have been stimulating and encouraging to us and, we hope, interesting to our readers.

A third effort will be made tonight to enlist a large active membership for the Y. M. C. A. The meeting will be held in the courthouse at half past seven o'clock, T. J. Markham presiding. Every young man in the city is urged to attend, and make this a real mass meeting.

The young men respectfully request that Mr. Markham be on time.

The little editor-in-chief sends his greetings to babies everywhere in the territory of The Advance.—Here's to you, little friends, and may it always be Baby Welfare Week at your house.

COUNTY HOME OPENS

The meeting of the Currituck County Commissioners on Monday of this week was the second in which the commissioners issued no benefit orders.

Exasperated at the growing total of these orders Commissioner E. M. Walker became convinced that a county home for paupers could be maintained at far less expense than the sum total of these orders. A suitable place was therefore secured and at the December meeting the clerk of the board was directed to notify all county beneficiaries that the home would be opened on January 1st, and that thereafter those who were not willing to go to this home would receive no aid from the county.

The home was opened on schedule time and permits to occupy it are now being issued at every meeting. The total of the county benefit orders issued for the last six months is approximately \$750.00.

GROUNDS IMPROVED

Visitors at Currituck this week were impressed with the improvement in the appearance of the grounds and in the cleanliness of the buildings. Not only do all the premises appear to be better kept but trees have been set out along the front of the courthouse lot. Especially noteworthy was the absence of soft drink and ice cream stands on the public square.

DR. PARKER READY FOR WORK

Dr. William Parker formerly of Charlotte, has opened his offices in the Hinton Building, Suite 226. Dr. Parker is a dentist of nine years' experience and came to this city from Charlotte about a month ago. Since that time, he has been fitting up his offices and is now entirely ready for work.

Buildings Not Adequate

Continued From Page One

Anyone can readily see that there will be more pupils than can be seated in Grades Adv. I, III, VI, VII. In the High School Department, there will be more teachers and pupils than can hold recitations in the present no. of rooms. Therefore, it is imperative that enough rooms and teachers be provided in the basement of the High School building to take care of the overflow in the above rooms. It is necessary to provide for next year the following: room and teacher for Grades I, room and teacher for Grade III, room and teacher for Grades V-VI, room and teacher for Grade VII, room and teacher for the High School Department; in other words, 5 rooms and 5 teachers. It is imperative that steps be taken at once for this increase. This arrangement will leave Grades IV and V in a somewhat crowded condition—41 more pupils in those rooms than really ought to be there—enough pupils for still another room and teacher; so that the Board of Trustees may as well fit up the entire 4 rooms in the basement.

A New High School Building

For the present and past school sessions, there has been an increase of about 75 pupils each session in the enrollment. For the session 1913-14 the enrollment was 1071; for the session 1914-15, the enrollment was 1149; for the present session 1915-16, the enrollment to January 28 was 1213, and there have been more pupils enrolled since that date. Placing the increase each year at 75 to 100 for the next five years—and at 100-150 for the following five years, the citizens can readily see what size building should be constructed to accommodate the enrollment for the next 10-15-20 years. An increase of 75 to 100 pupils in one year means an addition of from 2 to 2½ rooms and teachers for the next year. This ought to be pleasant information for the citizens, that their city is a live, growing city and not a dead one.

Inasmuch as the city is confronted with the necessity of a new school building, and the city does not possess a High School building, then the building to be built should be a modern High School complete with all High School features, necessary for a city of this size and of the size it is likely to be in the next 10 years. Such a structure should possess a gymnasium, study-hall and auditorium combined, high-school recitation rooms to accommodate 30 pupils at a recitation, a library feature in connection with the study-hall, a suite of science rooms (lecture-room, and a room each for physics, chemistry, biology, geography), art room, music room, commercial suite (stenography type-writing, book-keeping, etc.) domestic science suite (sewing, cooking, etc.), manual-training suite (wood-working, forge, etc.), girls' locker, boys' locker, etc.

In the construction of such a building, such matters as heat, ventilation (the air in the classrooms should be changed every fifteen minutes), cleaning, motion picture machine, shower baths, sanitary drinking fountains, fire protection and escape, and similar modern conveniences should be provided. Before approval of the plans, the State Fire Commissioner and the State Educational Experts should be consulted.

No less than from five to ten acres of land should be considered as a site in the construction of such a building for such a school building, so that ample provision may be made for all high school athletics.

The Junior High School

Educational Experts are advising the addition of another year to the city school curriculum, and then the division of the whole curriculum into two parts of six years each; this is known as the six-and-six plan. The first six years are practically the period now covered in Grades I-VI of the existing system. The last six years would constitute the high school period, divided into two sections of three years each; the first three years from what is known as The Junior High School and the last three years are the existing High School. The establishment of the Junior High School in the city is progressing rapidly, and in the course of the next five years this new school division will be pretty general. All progressive communities will strive to have it. The reasons for this new school are given below.

My reason for mentioning this new school idea is, that, as we must build, we should build with this new feature in view. Say, that we stay where we are for the next two years, and then move our high school department into a new building. This moving will open up five rooms for the expansion of the present grades below the high school department; and these five rooms will meet this expansion for the three years thereafter. At the end of those three years, it will be necessary to provide

for further increases in the grades below the high school. At that time, there will be four seventh grades. Now, by moving these seventh grades out to the high school building at that time, four more rooms can be provided for the increases in the grades below the seventh.

These seventh grades could then be formed with the eighth and ninth grades into a Junior High School, and an additional year could be added to the high school system, thus arranging our school system according to the ideal six-and-six plan. This arrangement would also postpone the construction of another grade building for the next ten years.

The above plan can be carried out, provided the new high school building is planned sufficiently large to take care of the high school pupils for the next five years, and the high and seventh grade pupils for the next five or ten years thereafter.

Or, a high school building could be built now to last the needs of the city for the next ten or fifteen years; and in five years from now, a junior high school building could be built; which plan probably would be safer and cheaper.

The question is, whether to build one large building now to last for the next ten or fifteen years, or to build one building now and another in five years from now.

Arguments For The Junior High School.

First, that it marks the point of emergence into the adolescent period, with its new impulses, new interests, awakening purposes, and broadening activities, and for this reason should be paralleled by fresh subjects of instruction, different methods of teaching, a greater variety of activities, and a new type of school administration.

Second, that this plan would admit of the introduction of a foreign language and of elementary science at an earlier age than at present; at a point when interest is keen, the memory more retentive, and the power of acquisition and assimilation greater.

Third, that it would make possible a differentiation between pupils who would be likely, if not certain, to drop out of school at the compulsory age limit and those who expected to continue their education into the high school and possibly beyond it. A closer adaptation of educational material and activities to individual and group needs to be made than is now affected under the one-course-for-all pupils program.

Fourth, as a result of the closer adjustment of studies to needs, a larger number of pupils would be retained throughout the upper grammar grades and the early years of the high school.

Fifth, that it involves the departmental system of teaching special teachers for special departments, and gives to the work the variety and richness that satisfy the broadening interests and larger life of the adolescent.

Sixth, that for the thorough handling of the great variety of material that has now become incorporated in our high school curriculum, four years is insufficient. The work needs to be spread over more time so as to insure thoroughness, and produce the desired educational effect.

Seventh, the weight of educational authority is favorable to a six-and-six division, or at least to a reorganization of the upper grammar grades. Among those who may be quoted in its favor are Dr. P. P. Claxton, President, Eliot, G. Stanley Hall, John Dewey, Dr. David Snedden, Prof. Suzzallo, Dr. O'Shea and many others.

(The above arguments for the Junior High School are quoted from the Journal of Education of January 28, 1915.)

S. H. SPRAGINS,
Superintendent.

Joseph Perry of Winfall was in the city Thursday.

FLOATING THEATRE AT HERTFORD

The Floating Theatre left Sunday for a trip to Hertford, Edenton and Columbia. They will be in Hertford this week showing there every night, and will return to Elizabeth City in about four weeks.

AUTO BURNS UP

An automobile belonging to N. R. Parker was burned to the running gear last night or rather this morning about two o'clock.

Messrs Doll Pastorfield and Levi Crank, young chauffeurs of this city, were taking their lady friends home from a dance when the gasoline tank beneath the front seat exploded.

The young woman who occupied the front seat is said to have been painfully burned.


There is no explanation of the combustion of the gas in the tank.

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