

Monthly Progress Report of the School Department, January, 1953

1. All academic teachers were detailed to attend one day of the three day session on problems of or allied with programming, care, and training of mentally retarded persons. The principal was a panel member discussing with social workers, parents and nurses the possible activities that might be adapted to community-home usage, particularly with "trainables". The various teachers dispersed among other panels and talks. One dealt with a comparison and sharing of classroom activities and methods; another was a case conference re a specific typical family of mental defectives (the highest IQ 70 was the father, the mother is now at Faribault, the children at Owatonna). The teacher attending this panel was interested from the standpoint of the cultural adaptations that could in some cases detect from an already low IQ. Another panel described commitment procedures and studies.

New admissions

8

This was undoubtedly as valuable an in-service training feature as is available for institution teachers, and the course was excellent for public education both as to what mental deficiency is and also what various public agencies contribute to programming and planning.

(January 5 - 7, Center for Continuation Study, University of Minnesota).

Since most of the new admission cases were admitted as emergencies, they

2. Several of the academic teachers went out a few days with the prevalent "flu". A total of about 25 work days were lost. Fortunately, timing permitted the school principal to maintain most of the classes to some extent. A substitute system merits consideration.

3. Teachers have been working independently and with Mr. Shanks of the psychology department to determine the progress of individuals in each class. Particular emphasis has been placed on the understanding of emotional and situational factors as they affect drive and learning ability.

4. Each teacher has been instructed to consider the total progress of each pupil in her class. This is being done to eliminate guessing if possible and to discover if present behavior indicates mid-year change or progress. The data and recommendations were submitted to the school committee at a meeting January 27, 1953, and several decisions were made on the implementation of these matters. These are in the area of program changes, and it is to be possible to report these in February.

5. It is planned to continue the practice of last year in that the program and the individual students will be evaluated and reviewed each semester. The Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health. It is felt that much was gained from the various discussions about actual procedures and the various state institutions.

William E. Rowley

Finally, the Psychologist attended the teachers' meetings in the School Department and reviewed several cases with the Principal and

Respectfully submitted,

Arnold A. Nelson

Arnold A. Nelson
District Psychologist

1. As of February 1, 1953, the programs of four patients were modified within the school department; five were referred to Patient Program Services for work and/or handicrafts; four are to be studied further.
2. In addition to our weekly meetings with the psychologist in discussing special cases, we have had two particularly good meetings on recent publications in child development. We have also worked together in developing techniques for teaching ceramics as part of the curriculum for school art periods.

These In-Service-Training meetings are held during the noon hour before the lunch period. The librarian attends the meeting as time and interest permit.

3. The principal attended the Institutional Assembly at Anoka on February 26, 1953. It was an interesting experience, and it is hoped that the next assembly on Rehabilitation will be even more profitable.
4. The school principal plans to be available for any meetings necessary to implement the training of experimental groups. These experimental groups would be pilot study groups for practical training of pre-school patients in daily habits, and some degree of self-help. This program suggested by the superintendent at the Department Head meeting February 16, 1953 seems an excellent plan for economical and practical training of this type of patient.

William Roewer
William Roewer, School Principal

Month Progress Report of the School Department for the month of March 1953

1. The school department was host to the local chapter of the International Council for Exceptional Children. Faculty and staff members of the Owatonna State School, Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School, School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Minnesota School and Colony were present. Chief activities were, and will be, centered around strengthening the organization and renewing the interest of members. Since there is a general feeling that the organization should continue, it would seem worthwhile to develop it as a professional group linking employees of the four state schools in interests. (date, March 16, 1953).
2. The Educational Council met March 11, discussion of mutual problems was the chief order of business. Mrs. Carlgren was invited, and attended part of the session. She brought us up to date on general attitudes and plans at the Division of Institutions. She also agreed to act for the council in matters that come up at the state level. She promised that a decision would be sent out to the institutions regarding state fair booths. She also promised to check on whether or not the bill for additional salary range would be reintroduced this session.
for teachers
3. This has been a fairly routine sort of month, prior to a busy season, preparing to close school, administering tests, and bringing reports up to date. The principal has continued usual duties, including speaking to In-Service Training groups, and participating in public relations guide service as well as conferences concerning program planning and patient training.

William E. Rowe

William E. Rowe, School Principal

Progress Report for the School Department, Month of April 1953

1. Activities of the teaching staff have been confined to classroom teaching, except for an evening dinner-meeting of the Rice County Education Association, Monday, April 13, 1953. Teachers attended on their own time. Mrs. Olive Lynch of our staff was elected vice-president of the group. We are particularly pleased that our institution-school has been recognized by this county-wide group of educators. The principal feels that it is highly desirable that we have a free interchange of ideas and problems with our colleagues in the community.
2. The teaching staff, librarian and principal have been meeting regularly with a staff psychologist to discuss child development, and educational philosophies and practices.
3. The Institutional Assembly at St. Cloud was a superior experience, and I would like to add my appreciation for the work and planning involved. The speakers were both inspirational and practical, and should have made a good general feeling toward rehabilitation. It would seem to be desirable that copies or excerpts be made available to all employees, if possible.
4. We were invited to attend the B.I.N. day at the Faribault schools, but since most of the staff is familiar with the system, we felt we might pass it by this time. We are aware that many fine opportunities for professional growth are becoming available, but we can only take advantage of a limited number of them.
5. The principal was the guest of the Southern Minnesota Education Association Principal's workshop Saturday, April 18. Administrative problems were discussed, and a panel of parents and laymen discussed what they expect the product of schools to be. I felt, again the satisfaction of institutional work, where the total program is more consistent, and more complete facilities are available.
6. Some pieces of Ceramic work done by a school class were included at an exhibit of the Minnesota Art Education Association at Northfield, Saturday, April 25. The patients' work was well received and compared favorably with the general level of Junior High pupils.

William E. Roever

William E. Roever,
School Principal

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, Month of June 1953

1. The Academic Department was closed Saturday June 13, 1953 for the summer months. Teachers are on 10 month employment, including annual leave time.
2. Before teachers left, they were required to complete individual progress reports, referrals for study by psychologist, doctor, or others, to make recommendations for change of program or placement, and to administer and score achievement tests in cases indicated by principal.
3. Recommendations of the teachers were discussed by teachers and the training and program committee. Sixteen pupils were discussed rather extensively and change in program was recommended. These changes involve other departments, and will be continued for study, pending the appointment of a new Patient Programs Supervisor.
4. All teachers stated they plan to return next year, with the possible exception of Miss Arlene Weber, Teacher of the Deaf. Another offer has been made her, but she felt she'd like to stay at least one more year, unless an additional consideration arose to modify her plans.
5. Mrs. Olive Lynch plans to complete her Bachelors Degree in Education this summer at the University. Miss Winnifred Gallagher plans to attend an extension course at the local high school (by Mankato Teachers College).

William E. Roewe
 William E. Roewe, Principal
 School Department

Enrollment	17	18	20
At School	6	6	6
Married during month	3	3	3
Died	1	2	3
Transferred to other	1	2	3
Remaining	17	18	27

Progress Report for the School Department for the months of July and August, 1953.

1. Teachers are off duty for the summer, being on ten month basis.
2. Principal substituted as temporary co-ordinator of activities because of the vacancies and one sick leave in the key positions of that department. The work of the principal may be inferred from the Patient Activities reports for those months.
3. The School Department is under a temporary handicap, because the study of cases and plans for school groups and programming as well as curriculum were not given sufficient attention during the summer months. However, urgent matters were properly considered and it is felt that the deficiencies are primarily in areas where we would personally be most aware or concerned. For example, we have not in two years had opportunity to record terminal evaluations in patient folders. We have not had opportunity to summarize and prepare in-service training materials to raise the professional level of the staff to the point at which it can and should function. These areas have been covered informally or on an emergency basis from time to time, but should be organized on a formal professional basis. There was not an adequate filing system within the department, and there is still much to be desired in this area. We plan to work intensively on these and similar tasks and have delegated the teachers to assist as their limited time permits.
4. An important phase of future planning must include curriculum and special techniques that can be standardized to some extent to meet the special needs of children whose problems and deficiencies are recurrent in other generations or in year to year planning for new admissions or newly-matured patients.

William E. Roewe
William E. Roewe,
School Principal

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SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 30

1953

Progress Report for Month of September 1953.

1. All academic teachers returned to duty September 1, 1953. September 1 and 2nd were devoted to in-service training. September 3rd was local Business, Industry and Education Day at which the teachers were honored by Paribonit Businessmen and were given tours and orientation on which they might base the pre-vocational aspects of their curricula. September 4th was used administratively for assuring a smooth function and clear understanding of actual assignments for the coming semester.

2. Classes for patients began September 6th. Total enrollment is 143 patients or an average of 28.6 pupils per teacher. An average of 14.3 pupils is in each class group two and one half hours daily five days per week (Mondays through Fridays). Each of five teachers teaches two groups daily, making a five hour daily teaching load in addition to special help, case study and special planning and maintenance of complete records. The forty hour week is upheld on the premises.

3. The school principal had the interesting experience of guiding visitors from Canadian institutions on two separate occasions and found a fruitful exchange of ideas resulted. It is felt that the visitors were favorably impressed by our total and specific programs and we felt that they are on the verge of fine accomplishments in their programs.

A Physical Therapy class has been started during the past month. Both the daily review class for the blind and the Physical Therapy class proved to be a great success.

Box slides were exhibited during the month of September by William E. Roewe, Primary and Secondary students.

William E. Roewe
 William E. Roewe, Primary and
 School Principal

Two special programs were presented to our institution in the past month. The first one was Dick Finch and his band, who was brought here by Mr. Koch of the Minneapolis Chamber Music. The second program was an accordion band, brought here through the efforts of Mrs. Zerling. The students enjoyed both programs very much and are looking forward to more of the same type entertainment.

VERIGH

The entire staff are now in the midst of planning the many Halloween parties that will be the big event next month.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Progress Report for month of October 1953

1. October 5 - We held a surprise fire drill in the school department. Both floors (including handicraft groups as well as academics) were vacated in less than four minutes. With practice, this time could be cut down a little more.
2. October 9, 10, 11 - Mrs. Olive Lynch, Academic Teacher, was detailed to the regional conference of the American Association on Mental Deficiency in Omaha, Nebraska. She felt that the program was not particularly well prepared, nor the material presented at a high enough level professionally. However, she is rather well trained and the presentation may have been satisfactory for many persons attending who may have simpler professional needs. She indicated that next year's program may be better because of the planning-personnel and suggested that it be tried at least one more year before definitely deciding whether or not it is a worthwhile in-service-training feature for the state to patronize. She did find benefit from personal get-togethers with people from other states, as one often does at these meetings.
3. October 16 - Mrs. Lynch represented the Rice County Education Association, as well as our school, as a platform guest at the Southern Minnesota Conference of M.E.A.
4. October 29, 30 - The academic teachers attended the St. Paul meeting of M.E.A. They were particularly impressed with talks and meetings by Dr. Frances Horwich, Ph.D., who is a nursery-kindergarten specialist and who has done much with her television program "Ding-Dong Schoolhouse" to promote modern educational and child development practices both in homes and schools. The actual M.E.A. Convention Program was also excellent. Mental Health, Prevention of Mental Illness and development of healthy attitudes dominated the convention. The following were particularly liked by more than one teacher:

Challenge of a Changing World by Robert A. Kasmayer

A Teacher's Mental Health by Dr. Ralph Ojemann

What to Do While Waiting for the Psychiatrist by Dr. Murray Banks

5. The Teacher of the Deaf-retarded, Miss Arlene Weber, spent one day in observation and conference with the staff of the Minnesota School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Because of her deafness it was felt that both she and the (our) school would derive more benefit from such a visit than from attending M.E.A.
6. October 20 - Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Roever attended the Rice County Education Association's Executive Board Meeting, the latter representing our school, the former as vice-president of the county association. This activity is conducted on personal time as are the principal's duties as program chairman for this year, for this group.

7. The School Department participated in the local International Council .
 Exceptional Children's meeting October 27, 1953, 8:30 P.M. Our institution played host to about 150 employees of the four state institutions nearby and from several colleges, private schools, and public school systems. The school principal was on a panel, presenting with Dr. Bruhl and Mr. Threne two particular challenging cases and discussing the three aspects of programming, Medical, Psych and general adjustment and educational. There was overlap into the areas of care and activities. It was well received and we felt that definitely some consideration of child development and mental hygiene were advanced by these cases and the ensuing philosophy.

WELFARE

8. All teachers participated in the local hobbycraft fair Saturday, October 10th, at their own expense, except Mrs. McComb who was detailed on duty for purpose of supervising patient-demonstrators. It was interesting to see how well our patients fit into the general population at this type of activity. No particular attention was called to their presence, although staff members conversationally handled questions or comments. It was interesting too that the crafts and hobbies they demonstrated were of greatest interest to the spectators and ranked high in quality and workmanship. About a dozen of our patients attended from various departments and about 50 local people also exhibited. About 800 persons viewed the exhibit. From noon to early evening, not the slightest incident occurred. This might open the way to consideration of further "normal" types of experience in communities for our patients, provided that the persons chosen were carefully screened and supervised.

William Roewe
 Mr. William Roewe, 195 in hobby groups,
 School Principal

Number of patients to this division during the month 3
 Number of patients received from this division during the month NONE

INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT

1. Name of patient in Industrial Therapy activities on the 1953
2. Name of patient to this division during the month 24
3. Name of patient to this division during the month 3

PROGRESS REPORT
NOVEMBER, 1953

There is no particular progress item to report except a rather time consuming research project, which occupied most of the faculties non-teaching time for the month. In addition to giving ourselves and our public relations personnel a good overview, the details of the individual cases helped the teachers re-evaluate their thinking in several cases.

This survey includes only those children enrolled in school classes as of November 1, 1953. Statistical material was all brought up to date as of November 30th because of the anticipated time the project was to take. Total enrollment is one hundred forty-eight. The survey will be filed in the School Department for future reference.

William Hoover by g.b.
William Hoover
School Principal