

*new concept*

July 1913.

There is coming into our life a new concept of Education. There was a time when we thought of education as something outside of and independent of one's daily life. In fact, it was almost a sin against one's education to mix it up with his daily life. Education was not supposed to be used to help a man in the daily routine of life's work. It was set apart for his leisure hours. It was classified along with music and art as a thing beautiful, but not as a thing practical.

By slow degrees men began to realize that they could study things that would help them to become more efficient in their occupations, in the routine of daily life. At last men have realized that they can study subjects that will help them in any occupation. This is a new concept of education. It makes no difference what a man is to do, education will help him to become more efficient.

The old idea reserved education for the few. The new idea requires education for all.

Under this new concept education should help each boy and girl to find the thing in life he is best fitted to become. When this is discovered his education should be directed that he will become the best possible individual in his chosen field of activity. In other words, education should help the individual to discover his natural talent and then help him develop along the line nature has most richly endowed him.

*Education & learning should go hand in hand.*



Under the new idea learning and work go hand in hand. Under the former pleasure was a logical conclusion; under the latter happiness and service are the logical conclusion.

Under the old idea the escapades and pranks of students were not an illogical consequence. Under the new idea there is no place in the student life for these escapades. When the student realizes that his school work is an earnest preparation for his life work it is not difficult to hold him to his duties.

The head of a college for women wrote to a patron, "Mary is happy." This was the old idea. The parent wrote back, "I do not care whether Mary is happy or not. I want to know if she is making progress in her studies." This is the new idea. In this particular case Mary was happy and she was making progress in her studies. I believe she was happy, because she was making progress.

Whether we agree with it or not, this new concept of education is going to dominate and going to carry with it universal education. It is in this idea, in part, that we find justification for the six months school term and the compulsory attendance laws passed by the General Assembly last spring. Unless the education given to our youths helps them to find the things they are best fitted for by nature, and unless it helps each to become the most efficient in his chosen work, then, there is no justification for this expenditure of public funds for



But to accomplish the results anticipated it is necessary to place in each school an efficient teacher. Unless the teacher sees clearly his mission and unless he has had that training that will enable him to do his work with intelligence, the child's attendance upon the sessions of the school may be a positive hurt to him. If a child's education is to be used as a source of pleasure and not as an integral active factor in his daily work it makes but little difference whether the teacher has a true vision of his mission. But if the child's education is to enter into his daily work, if his education is to help him to determine what he is to do in life and then help him to prepare for that life work then the teacher must have the vision and must have that training necessary to do his work with intelligence, otherwise, his teaching may do more harm than good. It is true, therefore, that the greatest educational need in North Carolina to-day is efficient teachers. Teachers who see in the school room of our State, opportunities for service to our State and teachers who know how to be of service, i. e., teachers who can do their work with intelligence. There is no place in our system for the young man or young woman who is to teach for a short time to make money to do something else. That is the individual preparing for his life work at the expense of many innocent and helpless children. It is a crime against the innocent ones.



who may hold a position on the school board. That is giving employment to your friend's son or daughter at the expense of your own child. There must be on the part of our people a clearer concept of their duty to their children in the employment of teachers. The school is not established for the parent or for the teacher, but for the children. Parents and teachers should realize this. When any teacher is employed by "pull" the chances are that damage has been done to the children of the community.

Our system of schools will never be better than the standards set by our county and city superintendents. Unless these men are efficient, unless they see clearly their duties but little may be expected of our teachers. Often a poor superintendent prevents a good teacher from doing efficient work. If a superintendent is taken out of his position for political purposes, party or local politics either, the chances are that damage has been done to the children under his supervision. Again, if a superintendent is put into a position for political reasons the chances are that damage is done to the helpless little ones. Efficiency alone should be the standard and only the competent should be allowed in the position of superintendent.

Educating our children is a most serious business and should be looked upon as a public trust by all in authority. The sooner we view it as a big business and place it upon a business basis the better for the children. The light headed frivolous person should be eliminated from the business and only



the well trained efficient should be allowed to participate  
in this great task of fitting each generation of children  
for the responsibilities of mature years.