

when the oyster industry has been successful in obtaining yearly crops of oysters there were large natural beds located in the harbors, bays and river mouths where the conditions were favorable for the production of a vast quantity of spawn. Today these valuable areas have been destroyed by excessive pollution from factories and by overfishing so that only the deep water beds remain for the production of seed oysters.

When spring and summer weather conditions in deep beds resemble those normally existing in the harbors and estuaries, oyster culture is successful, but unfortunately this happens only occasionally. Connecticut recently passed a law enforcing the control and elimination of pollution in its harbors. The enactment and enforcement of such legislation in other oyster growing states would do more than any other one thing to increase the existing supply of oysters. This spring the Bureau of Fisheries intends to undertake an investigation of the coast of South Carolina to ascertain the possibilities for oyster propagation in the South. A similar survey of Texas is already under way.

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN TAUGHT LESSONS BY RADIO

Can one teacher broadcasting from a radio station teach penmanship, history or science to hundreds of children in school rooms all over a city? V. E. Dickson, of the Berkeley, California public schools, who attended the meeting of superintendents of the National Education Association, in Washington, says that it is being done in California public schools with considerable success.

The radio instruction is not in the form of a lecture, as a rule, but is so planned that the children are given directions and take an active part in the long distance lessons just as in ordinary class work. Schools of the city are equipped with wires leading from a central receiving radio set to a loud speaker in each classroom, and the radio lessons are broadcast several times each week.

Mr. Dickson predicts that radio will not supplant regular class room teachers, but it will be extensively used in public schools.

"Receiving sets sometimes balk, and to have a whole class waiting impatiently for those waves which once passed are gone forever is embarrassing to the receiving operator," he admits. "But," he adds, "I can remember twenty-five years ago when automobiles frequently acted in similar balky fashion. They do less of it now."

Some of the advantages of school room radio, pointed out by Mr. Dickson, are: The lessons are necessarily presented by the best teachers in the city, because of the difficulty of "getting instruction across" by the voice alone. Consequently, all of the children have the benefit of some instruction by experts in different subjects. Teachers also benefit by listening to the carefully planned lessons prepared by these experts, and the teachers have the opportunity to observe their own pupils at work in a manner not possible when they are busy teaching.

Even the adults of the city are taking an interest in the grammar school lessons, because of the different ways of doing things since they went to school,

Mr. Dickson has found. Some of the parents write to inquire if their papers will be corrected if they send them in to their children's school teachers.

EARS GET TIRED AFTER HARD DAY, SAY SCIENTISTS

Nobody has proposed an eight hour day or a forty-eight hour week for weary ears--so far. Nevertheless, ears do suffer from fatigue, and when they are tired they don't work so efficiently, according to experiments being conducted at the University of Wisconsin by Drs. G. A. Goldsmith, L. S. Luenzman, L. Sammons, and B. W. Zimmerman.

Using as their apparatus a watch mounted on a moving carriage, they confirmed a belief that keenness of hearing is less at night and at the end of the week.

Mental work always causes a decrease in keenness of hearing, the scientists find. Severe exercise has the same effect. Moderate exercises may sharpen hearing but this depends upon the amount of exercise and the condition of the subject.

The ears are a rather delicate barometer of physical fitness, the tests indicate. Diminished power of hearing may give warning of approaching bodily or mental fatigue some hours before the individual is aware of any change in his condition.

SCHOOL ROOMS BADLY LIGHTED, SAYS EXPERT

The lighting of school rooms in the United States, especially the provision made for artificial lighting, is far below the standards considered economical by up-to-date business establishments, according to E. J. Dailey, Jr., illumination expert of New York, who is attending the National Education Association meeting.

"Wisconsin is one of the very few states that has a lighting code controlling the standard of lighting for school buildings," said Mr. Dailey today. "If more states would enact a similar code many of the present evils would be eliminated."

"Investigations have shown that healthy eyes, under normal conditions, use up from 10 to 15 per cent. of the whole nerve force generated by the body, but the eyes may use up as much as 50 per cent. of this force if subjected to undue strain. Other studies have shown that at least one-fourth of our school children have defective vision, and much of the trouble can be traced to improper lighting either in the school or in the home."

Young children, especially, require the best lighting conditions, said Mr. Dailey, as it takes them longer to become acquainted with unfamiliar pictures and characters.

"Most of their early training consists of impressing on their minds--through their eyes--mental pictures," he explained. "The speed with which they can absorb these pictures and the clarity of the impression on their minds have considerable bearings on the intellectual progress they make."
