

ground for this assumption. They are as follows:

"I look forward to the time when free textbooks will be furnished throughout the country, when there will be no state uniformity and no period of adoption, when the selection of books will be entirely in the hands of those who teach."<sup>6</sup>

"Contrary to the belief current in some quarters that the state adoption system and the state uniformity doctrine are favored and abetted by textbook publishers, the truth is just the opposite; the reputable and substantial textbook houses would welcome the immediate and complete abolition of state uniformity, state prescription, state selection and adoption."<sup>7</sup>

The evidence is that state adoptions persist in response to interests and forces which are not primarily educational. It is equally clear that the more recent efforts to extend the system have not been stimulated by the prospect of promoting any clearly recognized line of progress either in instruction or in school management. A timely contribution to the future progress of American public education could readily be provided through a nationwide scientific appraisal of state textbook adoptions.

NELSON B. HENRY

<sup>6</sup>National Society for the Study of Education, *op. cit.*, p. 183.

<sup>7</sup>Whipple, *Guy M.*, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE TURNS TO EDUCATION

The major obligation of the State is not the organization of government, nor the making of law, nor even the administration of justice: it is the enlightenment of peoples in a cultural philosophy of the good life.—  
BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH, *former president of the American Political Science Association.*

The use of leisure is a severe test of character.—*Henry Ford.*

### WHAT YOU GET FROM VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

*Volunteer work helps other people; but it also helps the volunteer. Participation in some social movement thus provides valuable experience, says the president of Girl Scouts.*

IF I WERE a young woman starting out to make my way in a changing world, I would for the sheer adventure of it budget my time in such a way as to include a few hours each week of volunteer work in some social movement. Not just any social movement, but one which enlisted my sympathy and enthusiasm.

Does this sound as old-fashioned as a poke bonnet? Perhaps. But many old-fashioned things, from furniture to puffed sleeves, have been swinging into style again in recent years. I am sure, for example, that a certain hard and frivolous indifference to the public welfare is going out and that our early American, small community habit of being good neighbors and responsible citizens is returning. In a period like the present when tragic human need and the possibilities of a better world present themselves together, who cannot but feel a heightened interest in public affairs and a wish to pitch in and be a part of them? Perhaps we shall soon hear a new slogan: "It's smart to be serious."

This doesn't mean that joy, humor, amusing clothes, and the spirit of play are to be replaced by stodginess and owlsh solemnity. Surely the younger women of today who sit on committees, make speeches, sign appeals, and often take sides in controversial matters are intelligent and charming people. They have simply found in public life a field of stimulation and dramatic interest that affords a more varied satisfaction than the safe, routine paths of the conventional "good time." And they have discovered that the entrance to more useful and intelligent

living is neither expensive nor difficult. It is only necessary to look about, decide what facet of current history seems important, and volunteer for action. Anybody who is willing to do a certain regular amount of dependable work and to show a co-operative spirit can get a foothold in whichever public movement seems to him or her essential and worthy of devotion.

Volunteer work, of course, should be selected as carefully and executed as conscientiously as though it commanded a salary. The potential fields for investment of surplus energy need to be studied in a thoughtful and business-like way: for a movement which is one person's meat is another's poison; and there are many organizations, each affording a different kind of experience to the volunteer worker. It is possible, for instance, among a thousand other things, to run for alderman, to help out an overworked district nurse, to teach an adult education class, to be a helper in a progressive school, to work in the institutional activities of a church, or to be a leader in one of the various leisure time movements for youth.

The leadership of leisure time organizations for youth offers a unique opportunity to young people with their careers ahead of them; for recreational leadership will certainly be one of the important salaried activities of the future. It is becoming clear that the machines of this age of electrical power have so greatly increased productivity that child labor and exhausting hours of toil are not only unnecessary, but certain to cause the over-production which under our present economy is apparently one cause of recurring economic depressions that injure everybody. The common public interest demands shorter work-hours and an education for leisure. Average people in the future will therefore, it seems, have a larger use for the recreational techniques which are a part of the program of progressive schools, well-managed playgrounds, and Scout and "Y" organizations. Everybody will be able

to enjoy physical culture, camping, nature study, water and winter sports, all ways of outdoor enjoyment; the amateur theatre; dancing, painting, photography, good books. Musical educators believe that in the coming age of leisure people will learn to sing, play musical instruments, and to appreciate great music almost as commonly as they now read newspapers and books.

It sounds fanciful, does it not? But the beginning of this period is already upon us; and volunteer work in recreational organizations is one way in which the inexperienced young volunteer worker may "get her hand in," make friends, gain experience, and serve an apprenticeship in a promising field.

In the leisure time movement with which I am most familiar—the Girl Scouts—there is a perennial need of leaders. In spite of the fact that the organization has established many local and university training centers and runs every summer twenty out-of-door "universities in the woods" for training of leaders, there are never enough captains and camp counselors to take charge of the many girls who wish to be Scouts. It is an unhappy thing for a Girl Scout captain to be obliged to turn down week after week girls who have heard of the fun that is going on in her troop and who wish to be members. But it would never do to let existing troops become crowded like classes in many city schools in which pupils must be handled as a mass, not as individuals.

The volunteer in Girl Scouting hands on to her girls the skills in camping, hiking, nature study, swimming, canoeing, drama, dancing, home-making, handicraft, hospitality, and the like, that girls enjoy and need—with unsentimental sympathy, unobtrusive guidance, and companionship. At the same time she learns the profession of recreational leadership.

Volunteer Girl Scout Leadership has in the past proved an asset to girls and young women who wished to be teachers, physical

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climax to the day. Music was furnished by Ray Frye and his Virginians.

On Sunday morning alumnæ began to leave, although the weather was far better than when they arrived. Those who remained over Sunday enjoyed the especially planned Y. W. C. A. program.

That the Home-Coming was such a success is due to the efforts of everyone on campus to do more than her share of planning and working. Dr. Duke co-operated so heartily in planning the various parts of the program, in allowing the use of his picture, and in actually autographing 325 of them (no small job). Mrs. Cook worked long and hard over the dance and the refurbishing of Alumnæ Hall and the radio room. Miss Turner and Miss Rucker worked strenuously on the banquet. And thus it went all over the campus. The Home-Coming couldn't have been other than a success—and we are most grateful to each and every one.

Among the messages received March 24 was the following from Anne Gilliam, in Baltimore:

"So sorry I could not get to Harrisonburg this week-end for the alumnæ reunion. I do hope that a large number of alumnæ have come back and that all of you have a successful and happy week-end. Best wishes to all the alumnæ, especially the Class of Twenty-One."

### WHAT YOU GET FROM VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

(Continued from page 85)

culture or camp directors, play ground and club leaders, child psychologists, workers in progressive education, and social workers. I know of many instances in which a Girl Scout leader found her volunteer work a gateway to a paid job. Such work is a limited part of the preparation which is needed for paid jobs in the lines I have mentioned; but it counts and is a real step toward the goal.

Similar advantages, I am sure, come to the volunteer leader in other public movements. The young woman who has no job and feels an urgent need of getting one often finds that regular attention to a volunteer job for a little time each week is a way of staying cheerful, making new contacts with people and affairs, and keeping a sense of belonging.

Volunteer work helps other people; but it also helps the volunteer. And this is as it should be.

MRS. FREDERICK EDEY

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