

Children's Theater Schools

ANOTHER interesting educational development in the arts is the Children's Theater School where all plays are written especially for this Theater—with the exception of plays of other countries, which are not revised. Plays are planned for different age groups, young, medium age, and older children. All parts are played by adults. Dramas are performed by children only in the Pioneer Club Theaters covered later in this report. Plays are chosen with the following points as criteria: (1) psychology of children, (2) psychology of adults, parents and directors of schools who also attend the Children's Theater.

Three years are spent in the theater school or studio, and study begins at age twenty. Among the courses offered are history of Russian and Western theater, Fencing, Dancing, Mastery of Acting. There are about thirty-two Children's Theaters in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Shows in the Children's Theaters are organized for the afternoon, for 6:00 o'clock and 7:30 presentation, according to the ages of the children. Following the performances there is discussion in the schools concerning the presentations.

There are about 300 on the staff in the Children's Theater School in Moscow. This personnel includes the entire production staff. Also in this number are seventy actors—thirty-five men and thirty-five women.

An interesting feature of the organization of this movement is the pedagogical section attached to the Theater. There are three teachers. Special showings are given for the directors of the schools; twelve hundred directors of schools came to one performance. Special showings are also given for parents. The purpose of the latter special showings is for the information of the parents, also to give the management an opportunity to secure the opinion of the parents about the productions. It was mentioned that sometimes there are different points of view between teachers, parents and management. Five new plays are added to the repertory each