

EQUIPPING A NEW CLASS:

"Where it becomes necessary to equip an entire new class from scratch, or several new classes, as when a new school is opened, an allotment of \$20 per child is allowed to equip that class with whatever it needs by way of educational equipment." — PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK.

as to standard textual materials. Because of teacher demand, transparencies are on the market for teaching math, science, history, language arts — the solid subjects as well as the fine and practical arts. Further, the transparency is growing in sophistication. It is available in several parts — called overlays — thus enabling a teacher to "build up" to complex concepts or teaching points; or "breakdown" an illustration to clarify an idea or a process. Some textbooks now include, as part of their contents, bound inserts of transparencies.

Power-packed films: Or, consider the 8mm single concept film — a medium growing directly out of the 16mm motion picture.

Reels upon reels of the older, wider-type film have done, and continue to do, superb jobs for teachers and students. Yet many a teacher has been discouraged from using 16mm motion pictures because of the vagueness of their instructional goals, obsolescence, amount of classtime required or setup difficulties.

As if in answer to these handicaps came the single concept film. It is probably the easiest to use visual device ever developed. But its real value is its instructional strength. It concentrates on a single idea or process — hatching an egg, yeast budding, bicycle safety. It requires from three to four minutes of showing time. It can be accompanied by the classroom teacher's own commentary.

Hundreds of 8mm film titles are already on the market. Thousands more will soon become available to teachers of every subject level — to illumine subject matter, ideas and concepts in ways hitherto undreamed of.

For the ear: A switch of the teacher's hand can also bring into the classroom the recorded voices of great artists and actors; or the speech of native experts in a score of foreign languages. For the recording and the audio tape can, and should, be as much a part of every teacher's tools as the textbook. "Let us now turn to page 88 and read one of Shakespeare's sonnets" can now be supplemented with the instruction, "Let us turn on the record player and hear how a famous artist interprets the poetry."

Certainly, the record is indispensable in the study of foreign languages. It is adding equally indispensable ingredients to kindergarten, language arts and social studies classes. A transcript of events that took place at a political convention, or Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech, provide unforgettable experiences for students.

Classroom laboratory and manipulative devices are

no longer frills. In recognition of the laws of learning, there are no more valuable materials than those for classroom experimentation and for manipulative use. They may accompany textual materials; or may be used independently to develop original exercises or experiments in units of science, math, language arts, geography or government.

Toward a systems approach: The growing range of teaching materials and media will, eventually, lead to a systems approach to instruction. To put it in other words, the teacher will organize his efforts so that the textbook or multi-texts and packages of other supplementary teaching media will contribute toward clearly defined learning objectives.

"The problem is to render unto the machine those things which are the machine's, and to direct to the teacher those that are truly human," said Dwight W. Allen, Stanford University.

The immediate task for the administrator, however, is clear. To provide his faculty with adequate supplies of many kinds of instructional materials and help the teacher organize them for most effective use in the classroom.

Publisher's role

Glance at the appointments calendar of an educational publishing executive, and you may well see any one or more of the following notations:

Conference, Nat'l Science Fn., re: new subject matter, research
Hearing, Wash., D.C., on Copyr't law revision
Meeting with UNESCO, Paris
Comm'r of Ed. Dept. of HEW Buil'g
Project Headstart — to discuss new materials

These notes reflect the growing involvement of the textbook publisher with the educational, governmental and world community.

The publisher can no longer sit in his office, accept a manuscript, produce a book, and place it on the market — with hope and trepidation — his task supposedly completed.

His next year's catalog of instructional materials must, in fact, be rooted in the dreams and needs of people. His thinking and planning are shaped by the great social changes and trends sweeping over our people and over the peoples of the world.

For that reason, the publisher today studies and assesses population growth, the emergence of neglected Americans, integration of races, the changes