

College of Education here in New York. The college, a graduate school for teachers which also runs an experimental grade school, is preparing a new series of integrated and urban-oriented readers for the Macmillan Co. division of Crowell-Collier Publishing Co.

PROGRESS IN DETROIT

"Negro children identify more readily with characters in integrated books, and this increases their interest in, and rate of, learning," asserts Gertrude Whipple, assistant director of language education for Detroit public schools. After testing three integrated primers, Detroit concluded they did a better job of stimulating pupils' interest and whetting their appetite for reading than standard non-integrated primers. While this was especially true for Negro children, who make up 53% of Detroit's public school population, it even held for white youngsters.

The changes Scott, Foresman & Co. of Chicago is making in its beginning readers are indicative of the way such books are being revised. From their introduction in 1934 until the new revision, the books have focused on the bland adventures of Dick and Jane, obviously middle-class, Anglo-Saxon types, and their dog Spot. But now Dick and Jane are making new friends—among them, Tim Wing, Rosa Cruz and the Negro twins Pam and Penny. The newcomers are going to school with Dick and Jane, and everyone gets on famously in after-school play.

Even mathematics books are being integrated. Noble & Noble, Publishers, Inc., instructed its artist to make every tenth person a Negro in the illustrations for its fourth-grade arithmetic text. The company took care not to picture Negroes in the menial roles they so often have been relegated to in literature and movies, as well as in real life. J. Kendrick Noble, Jr., vice president, recalls that the original version of one of the artist's drawings showed a highway construction crew with a Negro in the background with a pick. "We thought that was a stereotype, so we had him do the drawing over," says Mr. Noble. The published picture has the Negro in the foreground as foreman.

REINFORCING FEELINGS OF "INSIGNIFICANCE"

Publishers concede that textbook treatment of the role of Negroes and other minority groups in American history has been inadequate. John T. Sargent, president of Doubleday & Co., says that the resulting "absence of suitable materials on the culture and heritage of minority groups not only contributes nothing towards the development of pride among members of minority groups but also reinforces feelings of personal insignificance and inadequacy. It also gives whites a false feeling of superiority." In January Doubleday began bringing out paperbacks at sixth-grade reading level on the origins, contributions and lives of Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans and other minorities. The paperbacks are designed to supplement basic social studies texts.

Reassessment of the Negro's place in American history got a big push last year when six historians at the University of California's Berkeley campus declared that seven histories widely used in schools across the country generally ignored and debased the Negro's role. "In their blandness and amoral optimism, these books implicitly deny the obvious deprivations suffered by Negroes," the scholars complained. "In several places they go further, implying approval for the repression of Negroes or patronizing them as being unqualified for life in a free society."

One of the books cited as deficient was the 1962 edition of *Story of the American Nation*. After the Berkeley report was issued, Harcourt, Brace & World, publisher of the history, brought out a 28-page supplement, *America in the Early 1960s*, which is sewn into new copies of the text. A third of the supplement is devoted to tracing the history of American Negroes all the way back to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, despite the reference to "early 1960s" in the supplement's title. The text also tells of the achievements of such eminent Negroes as singer Marian Anderson and United Nations official Ralph Bunche and discusses the development of the civil rights issue. Donald Stewart, Harcourt senior editor for high school social studies, describes the new material on Negroes as "an over-correction that is needed for awhile until historians get squared away on the Negro's proper role."

Another book criticized by the California historians was the 1961 edition of *Trail Blazers of American History*, published by Ginn & Co. of Boston. The book contains the biographies of 27 famous Americans. Though one of these is Negro