

lieve that in advocating the dance and the theater he is doing the work for which he is ordained as a minister of the Gospel? Does not the church rather need to restrain than to encourage the pleasure seeking of its members?

#### MONEY FOR ENTERTAINING.

It is proposed to ask Congress for money with which our Consuls in foreign countries may entertain their American visitors. Secretary Root asks for a contingent fund of \$725,000 for this purpose. It seems to be a popular thing now a days to find some new scheme by which Uncle Sam may spend his money. Would it not be a good thing to turn a little of it toward our own distressed citizens at home, that is, if Uncle Sam has any of the people's money to spend?

#### MOTHERS AND TEACHERS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The cold rain and wind of the

conference of mothers and teachers who had expected to attend. Strange to say, more than half of those present came from the most distant places; from Deerfield, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Diamond Lake.

Last year only mothers were on the program and the teachers had an opportunity of learning of the effect of their work from the standpoint of the home. This year the program was furnished by the teachers. Mr. Sandwick opened the meeting. He spoke of the change of relationship between teacher and learner that characterizes the modern high school,—mutual regard, helpfulness, and friendship taking the place of the old time hostility. He pointed out the advantages of personal acquaintance among teachers and parents and of gatherings for the exchange of views. Such acquaintance increases the personal interest of teachers in the students when the former come to see that parents really care, and are, in fact, deeply interested in the education of their children and it strengthens the influence of the teachers by enlisting the cooperation of the home when parents come to see that the teachers, also, really care, and are personally interested in the success of each mother's own particular son or daughter.

The principal then outlined briefly the progress of the school during the past year; the happy union of part of Shield's Township with Deerfield and the improvements in grounds, building, and course of study. He spoke of the known value of physical culture in increasing physical growth and lung capacity; and of the relation of the medical examination of students in connection with gymnastic exercises,—a work which the New Trier Township High School has instituted—several local physicians visited the gymnasium classes, and also Dr. Lewis Gillesby, head of the physical culture department of Northwestern University. These were agreed that the class exercises must be beneficial to all but the very exceptional student suffering from heart lesion, a disease that could not fail to be known in the home. So far as these regular gymnastic exercises of the school are concerned the physicians and the expert were agreed that practically all students should take them and that no medical examinations are necessary; but it was recommended that boys engaging in violent games should be required to furnish a physician's certificate of health. The principal spoke of chemical tests he had made of the air in various rooms after the largest classes; these

tests showed that the air, thanks to the excellent system of ventilation by fans, is universally pure in the school building, while the same tests made in a private home with hot water heat and no ventilation found the air very bad in every room.

Mr. Sandwick explained the reasons for the lengthened school day. Previous to this year there have been but six recitation periods each day; at present there are seven. This reduces the number of conflicts on the student's program caused by two or more studies that were wanted coming at the same period; it also gives an extra study period in school to the pupils, and a free period to the teachers when help can be given to individuals.

Mr. Hill of the history department spoke briefly on the value of notebook work in history, and showed some typical notebooks. This work trains the student to pick out the important things as he studies to

of a page or a paragraph; and later it enables him to review whole epochs rapidly and easily from his outline work in the notebook. Some of these books are illustrated profusely with maps and with historical pictures taken by the student from periodical literature. A notebook in history is required by some colleges of entering students to show their proficiency in handling historical material. As to the value of notebook work, an experiment tried at the High School during the current year showed that a section of students who discontinued these notes and spent an equal time in reading fell markedly below in an examination on the work covered.

Mr. Herbert Smith of the science department spoke on the scientific method of study to which he attributes the great progress in all lines of endeavor during the past century. The scientific method is the laboratory method by which phenomena are studied at first hand; and the explanation is sought by a careful observation of things themselves rather than by a priori speculation. The scientific method is concerned with what is rather than what ought to be. It gives man a real conquest over nature; increases his comforts and gives him time for the arts, and for further prosecution of his victorious struggle with the blind forces of the universe. Mr. Smith told how the scientific method is applied in the high school in the study of physiography, biology, physics, and chemistry.

Miss Bliss, teacher of French and German, was the last speaker on the program. She gave an account of the organization by means of which high school students of French and German are enabled to communicate by letter with students of the same sex who are studying English abroad. This work stimulates greatly the desire to conquer the foreign language, leads to the exchange of photographs, and of interesting news of the country from which each writes and the customs there. Miss Bliss read several of these letters, some written by French and others by German students. Each letter proved interesting both for the material it contained and for the quaint expression in which French or German idiom could be seen behind the English wording. These letters are each corrected in a friendly way by the correspondent.

After this interesting talk a cup of coffee and a social half hour concluded the fifth annual conference of mothers and teachers.

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