

PARENTS MUST HELP HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL

(Continued from page 1)

and sleep. Too many of our boys and girls are permitted to attend parties and movie shows on school nights. This is, perhaps, the most fruitful source of failure that we have at New Trier. The habit of going out nights engenders a multitude of reactions that are deleterious and harmful. No sane person would deny that the movie and the party have their place in our social life but they should not be permitted to interfere with school work.

Sixth: The average high school student should devote at least two hours each evening to study. Many pupils tell their parents that they do not have to study at home for the reason that they have study periods during the day at school. Very few students find that the study periods which they have at school provide sufficient time for them to prepare all their lessons. The parents should provide a quiet, comfortable place for the student to study and see to it that the time mentioned above is devoted to school work.

Too Many Auto Rides

Seventh: Many New Trier students' chances for doing successful high school work are limited because they have automobiles at their disposal. Much valuable time which could be used to much better advantage in some form of physical exercise, is wasted by students riding around in their cars. Very often the attitudes set up as a result of such wide liberty is decidedly prejudicial to good school work.

We are very happy to say, however, that we are getting the active and hearty co-operation of many parents in the township. In a very large measure this close co-operation explains the success which many of our students have achieved in colleges and universities all over the country. The latest annual report of Yale University cannot fail to be assuring to parents whose children attend a public high school. The following table gives the relative standing of "Ranking Scholars" at Yale whose general average was 80% or above. The passing mark at Yale is 60.

Table Gives Interesting Data

Dean Angier in commenting on the above figures says: "Without driving interpretation too far, it seems fair to conclude from the foregoing figures that on the whole the public school boys do better than those from private schools. This is in accord with previous data. I imagine that in assigning causes the following considerations are important: Only the more ambitious of the high school boys try to enter college by examination, while the circumstance that on the whole the parents of the private school boys are wealthier enables many who might better not go to college to keep on until they eventually qualify for entrance; the public high school students have less money to spend in college and on the whole are less active in extra curriculum activities; the public high school boys have probably been more accustomed to stand on their own, both intellectually and in matters of conduct—the release from secondary school life does not involve much readjustment, but the repeaters and the tutoring school boys often satisfy our normal entrance requirements and are the poorest of all. Whatever the causes, it would appear from this year's figures alone that they are poor risks.

"A fair inference is that the quality of the student body in the public high schools is superior to that in private schools preparing for Yale."

Making of the Scholar

It is not the purpose of this article to argue the case of the public high school. This is not necessary. The need does exist for calling to the attention of parents certain matters upon which success is conditioned. The public high school can guarantee success in situations where the factors are under control. If the student is in good health, alert, is conscientious, regular and punctual in attendance, if his out of school life is all that it should be, if his environment and home influence are right, satisfactory results will be inevitable. The high school can then do its appointed work thoroughly and effectively.

The sole responsibility for the education of the child cannot be placed upon the school. The most important factor in the process is the home, which, in addition to a wholesome environment, must provide healthful living conditions. Growing children should have good food in sufficient quantities. It has been found as a result of our own physical examinations that we have quite a number of children in high school who are underweight. Even in communities favored as ours is, it has frequently been found that children are undernourished. The child very often chooses unwisely the things he eats. The appetites of a good many high school boys and girls run to knick-knacks that do not build up the body. The pernicious habits of bolting the food and taking vigorous physical exercise after eating are all too common.

The next factor in importance in the educative process is the school. The demand here is for ample accommodations, modern and up-to-date equipment, and a competent, interested, growing corps of teachers.

Churches Must Help

The third element is the ethical and spiritual atmosphere which the community itself furnishes. The primary responsibility for creating this atmosphere rests upon the churches and other moral agencies of our various villages.

The fourth factor, and by no means the least, is the student himself. In order that the proper results may flow from this combination, the high school pupil must be normal both physically and mentally and he must contribute in addition to these qualities at least a modicum of interest in his school work together with a determination that will carry him over the top to success.

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