Talks About Our Winnetka Schools

By CARLETON W. WASHBURNE, Superintendent, Winnetka Public Schools.

MUSIC IN THE WINNETKA SCHOOLS

press any mood he may feel. No schools and at the North Shore music is too good for children. The Country Day School. The children tendency of schools to give chil- will therefore go to the concert public or private, in which a wider dren tawdry music on the supposition familiar with the music and able to that good music is too difficult is not listen intelligently. only without foundation, but is the If the concert this spring is a sucworst thing we can do to children cess, the Music Fund which is being musically. The other day I played administered by Thomas Whitney two selections for the upper grade Surette of Concord, Massachusetts, children at Skokie. One was a piece will subsidize five more such concerts, of catchy, melodic, popular music that preceded in each case by lectures in was not bad and that even I thought all the schools, for next year. would appeal more strongly to the children than some of the finer things. the Winnetka Schools consists partial-Immediately after it I played a much ly of rhythms. A teacher in this work more difficult piece of music that was (Clementine Eastman) plays various a classical masterpiece. I started to types of music on the piano which the say to the children, 'Of course you will children interpret through very free like the first one better,' with the intention of trying to show them why the to call them such, although they are second really was superior. But the far less formal than any dances. children interrupted me. They said, These rhythms not only are fine physi-'Oh, we like the second one much better. There's nothing to the first one.' This gave me some hope that the work we have been doing in music with the Winnetka children during the past few years is bearing fruit."

The above quotations are from remarks made from time to time by Caroline Kohlsaat, supervisor of music work in the Winnetka Schools-the woman who was selected by Edward Yeomans and the Board of Education some six years ago to change the music in the Winnetka Schools from ordinary school music to real training in appreciation of the finest music and enjoyment of choral singing.

Sing Songs of Value From Kindergarten through the eighth grade the children in Winnetka sing only songs of real value. Much of their singing consists of folk songssimple and beautiful melodies that have been handed down the generations and have lasted because of their intrinsic value. As the folk song expresses the more childlike moods of mankind, it is particularly well adapt-

ed to the singing of children.
But as the children progress in the grades they branch into more complicated music. They sing such things as Bach Chorals. They become acquainted with the work of the great musicians of all times.

It is because of this superior quality of the music in Winnetka that a grant has recently been made to subsidize concerts by the Little Symphony Orchestra in the Skokie School.

Concert This Spring This same orchestra has been playing in the New Trier High school to delighted audiences last year and this year. This spring they will give one concert at Skokie. The concert will

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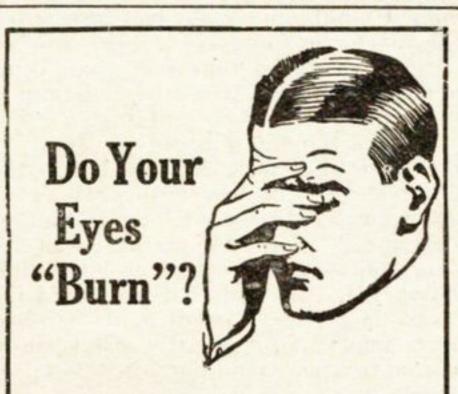
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be preceded by explanatory talks, illustrated at the piano, by a trained "Let each child have a song to ex- musician, in each of the lower grade

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cal education and an excellent relaxation after seat work in the schools, but they are a real training in interpretation of the rhythm in music.

In the upper grades there are glee clubs and an orchestra in addition to the regular work in music. These are in charge of Miss Kathryne Ramsay, Mrs. Kohlsaat's assistant. There is also a band in charge of Mr. Schumacker who has this work at the New Trier High school.

It would be hard to find any school, range of opportunity is offered for children to learn to love and understand fine music.

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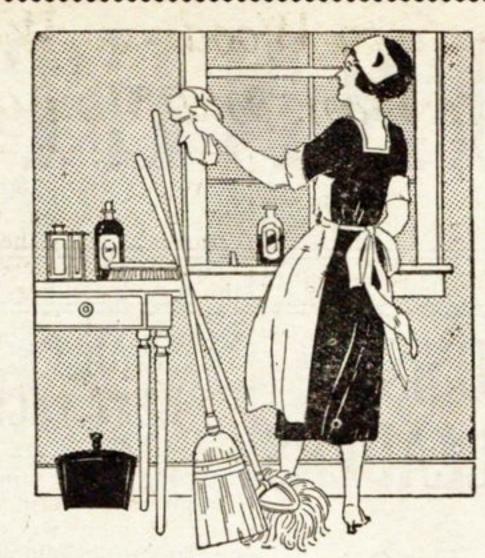
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