

DECLARES PUPILS MUST LIVE IDEALS IN CLASS

Kindergarten Teachers Told Activity Teaching Is As Important As Book Study

"Considering the school as an American agency means that we have some kind of notion as to the kind of people we want the school to produce—what we mean by Americans," said Dr. John E. Stout, dean of the School of Education, Northwestern university, in speaking before the students of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college last Thursday on the question, "How can education contribute to America becoming the place we would like to have it be?"

"One of the most frequently spoken of characteristics of the American is freedom, but we must find out and educate the people in how to be free, how to exercise freedom," he continued. "One of the difficult things is that freedom is a social thing, not merely individual, because what I am able to do will depend largely on other people. Free America can rest only upon the co-operation of the people living together in their desire and ability to secure those conditions where life may be lived in the spirit of freedom. Closely connected with this freedom is the ability and disposition to assume responsibility."

Teach "Livable" Principles

"The objective of our education must be the teaching, in terms of character traits, those qualities that we want Americans to possess, and they must be so explicit and well defined that they can guide us in our educational procedure. Life is made up not only of ideals, but of activities, and when we have defined the objectives of education in terms of character traits, the next question is, 'What are the means we would employ to secure the kind of action we want?'"

"We are introducing activities into our schools which will give pupils an opportunity of living in accordance with the principles they are being taught. We introduced these into the kindergarten and primary some time ago, but unfortunately the higher up we go the less we have of activity. I believe in the careful selection of the subject matter to be learned," said Dr. Stout. "Boys and girls must be taught by word of mouth and by the books they read concerning the ideals of life that we are trying to implant, but we need to stress particularly the activity side of education, that the school is a place where life can be lived in accordance with the higher ideals. We must

choose the activities as carefully as we choose material for the other subjects, and use them for the purpose of developing those character traits that we want the pupils to possess."

Dr. Stout suggested that we have been teaching too much about American citizenship and too little American citizenship, and that in the future we must do on the moral side what we are now doing on the intellectual—that we must know more of the moral needs and capacities, the handicaps and limitations of those we try to teach.

Teachers Must Have Ideals

In conclusion Dr. Stout emphasized the fact that if schools are to function in the task of Americanization, teachers must imbibe the characteristics essential to becoming true Americans. "We must have developed for ourselves the ideals that are essential and our contact in our various contacts must be of the kind that meets the standard of a good citizen. We must be able to function as teachers in such a way as to carry across into the lives of boys and girls those things for which we stand. The teaching of arithmetic, writing and spelling are easy compared to the teaching of ideals in such a way that they will become a part of life, and we must have introduced into our training and our experience those elements that will enable us to be teachers in this great task of character building."

Mr. and Mrs. Ira C. Darling, 256 Kenilworth avenue, are leaving Nassau Saturday after a several weeks' stay and expect to return to Kenilworth March 1.

Rev. and Mrs. Leland H. Danforth, 333 Warwick road, Kenilworth will be host and hostess to a dinner party of twelve this evening.

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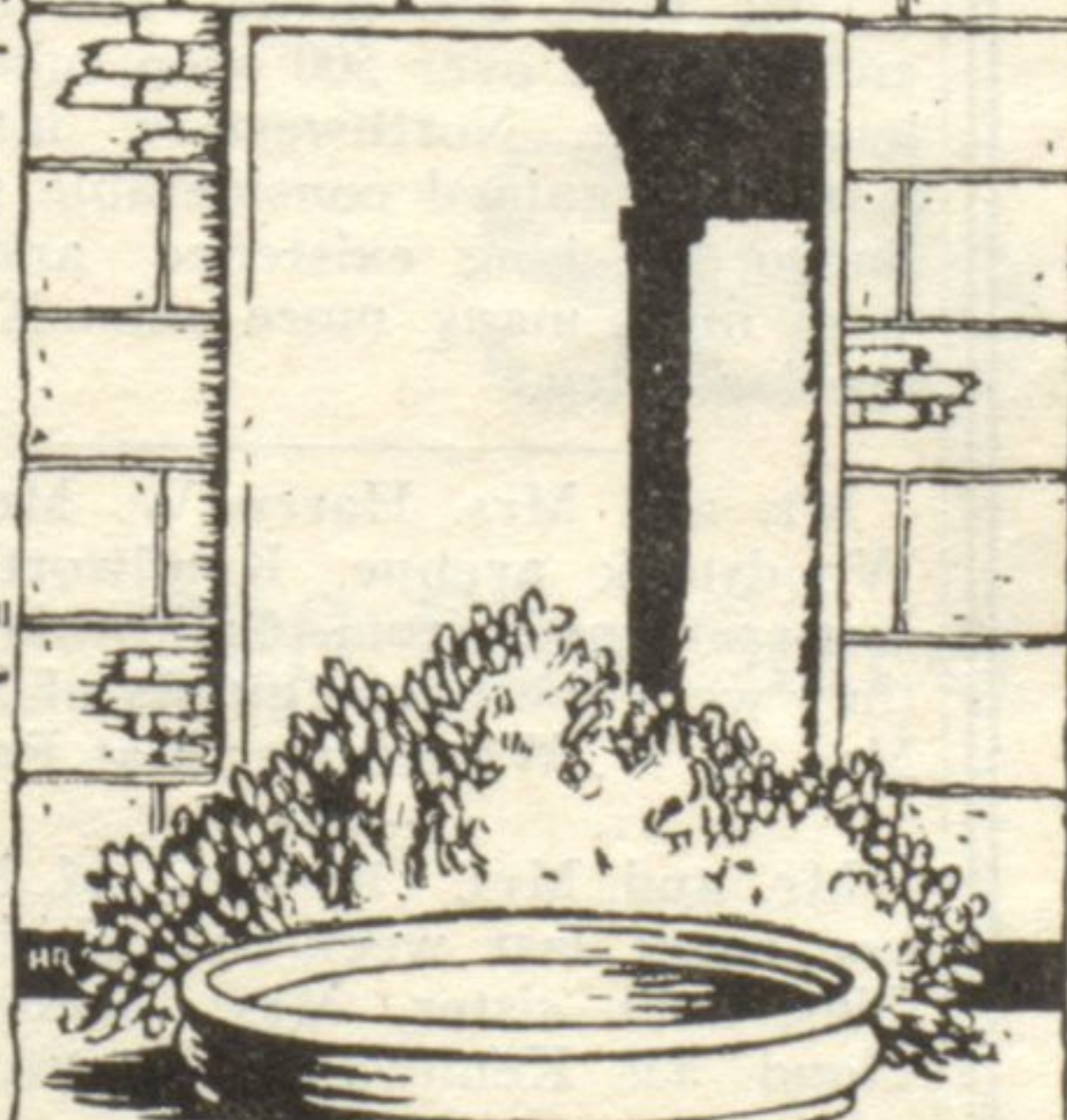
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