

The Open School Door

A Series of Articles on Clinton County
Schools and Their Problems

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3-9-61
What happens to those who don't have the ability to attend college?

Is the future of those who can not go to college impaired due to lack of education?

These are problems connected with education that must be answered. What will happen to the over one million high school graduates from this year's class who cannot go to college due to lack of ability? This is one of America's biggest problems.

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OFTEN WE hear that without a college education a young person hasn't much chance for any sort of a secure future. Of course, it is true to be a member of any of the professions or certain types of technicians, a college education is vital to become qualified.

The big mistake that too many educators make is to have all of their plans designed with the idea that college is the only important future plan for most younger folks.

Teachers, principals, guidance counselors, superintendents and others sometimes lose sight of the fact that large numbers will not get a higher education because of lack of ability or interest.

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FAR TOO many schools have rather complete libraries of college catalogues and small specialized courses designed for only college-bound students. Such courses as advanced mathematics, foreign language, chemistry, physics and many others are

expensive in terms of both equipment and student enrollment. Only in the larger school systems does the enrollment warrant the expense.

In other words, no certain personal educational ideas on a school system's direction should prevail. The aims and direction of the schools should be based upon careful study.

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IF IT MEANS more shop, home economics, commercial and general basic education then this should be kept in mind in future plans. Certainly auto-mechanics, tool and die trades and related areas are too often overlooked. Another helpful area is the continuing education program for the drop-outs or older folks.

Still another overlooked but practical area are the in-service or cooperative school work programs.

Of course, we realize what usually happens to these not-included "outcasts" within our schools. They just drop out of school or else cause so much trouble that they must be asked to leave. We often have no other choice to offer them.

To have unused, useful minds in these times of threat for our nation seems both wasteful and dangerous. We must all try as citizens to encourage our youngsters to use their untapped mental resources so as to insure a better chance for personal and national happiness. Our best way to do this is through complete offerings within our schools.