

hints for the teacher; one of Mark Twain's clever children valued her mother most and the new kitten came next. Elementary schools hold the centre of the stage so far as numbers are concerned. There were in the United States nearly 23 millions of the teachable in 1936, and between that date and 1930 a decrease of 4 per cent in attendance is noted. But States vary widely in the opportunities they supply.

What is said of a broad interpretation of the curriculum and of mental growth is excellent. Dramatic play, begun naturally by children as individuals, should be organized as a regular part of the school programme. It is well to take long views about later life, where education goes on steadily among the wise. The main business is to discover a child's special aptitudes and get over a reluctance to tackle subjects which may appear difficult, such as arithmetic. But, while there is talk of a "stable and desirable type of personality" as one of the aims to be achieved, and of democracy and good citizenship, we find nowhere any declaration whether the child is to be educated to meet the current standards in business, or to reach a higher morality which is dissatisfied with them. Culture has in practice little chance of competing with the attractions of that broad way, the *via dollarosa*.

Recent Earthquakes

FOUR strong distant earthquakes were registered at Kew Observatory during September. They were on September 12, 19, 21, and 22. The second of these was the greatest, having a ground amplitude at Kew of 47 μ , and being estimated at a distance of 17,400 km. The second was at a distance of 6,100 km. with an estimated depth of focus of about 390 km., whilst the third, probably distant about 140°, had a depth of focus of approximately 500 km. News from other observatories is awaited before the epicentres and depths of focus can be given with precision.

On September 4, two local earthquakes were felt in Palestine each of which lasted about 10 seconds. No damage has been reported and the shocks were not registered at Kew. It is reported in the Press that an earthquake was felt in Copenhagen early on September 28. No damage was reported. Earthquakes are rare in this district and the shock may have been caused by fault slipping in the Sound separating Denmark from Sweden.

The coast of Chile in the neighbourhood of Iquique was shaken by a violent earthquake about 6 a.m. (local time) on October 4. Reports of damage and details of the shock are not yet to hand. Chile as a whole is very liable to earthquake shocks, and Iquique has been affected on a number of occasions in the past, notably on May 9, 1877, when there was widespread destruction due to large sea waves caused by the earthquake in addition to the extensive damage done by the earthquake itself, and on January 23, 1878.

During April, May, June 1940 forty-seven earthquakes were registered at the Riverview College Observatory, New South Wales, as compared with fifty-six in the first quarter of the year. The Observa-

tory is equipped with two Wiechert horizontal 1,000 kgm. instruments, one Wiechert vertical seismometer of 80 kgm., two Mainka 450 kgm. seismometers and three Galitzin aperiodic seismometers with galvanometer registration, orientated north-south, east-west and vertical. The largest two shocks of the period appear to have been on April 1 when an amplitude of 23 mm. was obtained and on May 28 when an amplitude of 22 mm. was reached. The shock of April 18 was felt in the region of the Duke of York Islands, New Britain, etc. The shock of May 24 is reported to have had its epicentre in Peru, and the earthquakes of June 18 and June 22 were deep focus shocks. The instruments are occasionally affected by microseisms which are at times severe. The microseisms do not often preclude the accurate reading of the seismograms, details of which are given in the Observatory report.

Research on Juvenile Leisure

THE Socio-Psychological Department of the Manchester and Salford Council of Social Service is engaged in research into the problems of leisure time activities of juveniles. The research at present is centred around the psychological difficulties of juveniles in taking up educational leisure-time occupations. The department wishes to get in touch with those who have conducted similar research in order to co-operate and co-ordinate the research done. Information can be obtained from G. Wagner, Manchester and Salford Council of Social Service, 16-18 Queen Street, Manchester 2.

Announcements

PROF. A. EINSTEIN, who has been professor of theoretical physics in the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton since 1933 has been admitted to American citizenship.

DR. MILAN A. LOGAN, assistant professor of biochemistry at Harvard University, has been appointed Andrew Carnegie professor of biochemistry in the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati, in succession to Dr. Albert C. Mathers.

DR. W. A. CLEMENS, director of the Pacific Biological Station at Departure Bay, a branch of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, has been appointed head of the Zoology Department of the University of British Columbia.

THE Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has awarded the Pavlov Prize for 1940 to Prof. Maria K. Petrova, of the Pavlov Institute of Physiology and the Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Pathology of the Higher Nervous Activity. The annual Pavlov Prize of 20,000 roubles, for the best work in the field of physiology, was instituted by the Soviet Government in 1936. The winner of the Prize this year is known for her study of experimental neuroses, their mechanism and therapy. She has written a treatise on this subject, one volume of which has been published, and the other is in the press.