EDUCATION

"Teen-Age' Education in England"

You have, of course, a perfect right to say (*Nature*, February 6, 1960) that, in your opinion, the Crowther Report has made a wrong choice of priorities, but have you the right to leave out of your article any reference to the conditions that that Report lays down as essential if the age is to be raised? It calculates the number of extra teachers that will be needed not only to cover the extra year, but also at the same time to reduce over-large classes. It concludes that the task of providing these teachers, though formidable, is not beyond the capacity of the country, if it is determined to accept the plan. With regard to curriculum, it says that a greater variety of courses must be provided, that methods of teaching and discipline should be altered so that the fifteens-sixteens will be treated more like adults and less like schoolchildren, and that staffing ratios should be generous enough to allow "for some adult leadership out of school hours".

Readers of the article in *Nature* who have not read the Report itself would not know that it contemplates these changes before the age can be raised.

With regard to the note by what is called a "strong minority of the Committee", which did not, incidentally, include any of the heads of secondary modern schools, this dealt with the treatment of a small minority of children. The signatories go out of their way to state: "To avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, we want to make it clear that this note does not imply any dissent on our part from the major recommendation that the school-leaving age should be raised. On the contrary, we feel confident that provision on the lines we have suggested of a small minority would be held in public opinion to reaffirm the case for keeping the great majority in school for another year. We certainly regard it ourselves." Apparently, they have not avoided misunderstanding on your part.

It is stated in *Nature* that "No member of the Crowther Committee teaches the lower streams of Modern Schools". This is equivalent to the charge that the three heads of secondary modern and one head of a comprehensive school are ignorant of the conditions which exist in their schools—a grave indictment indeed that would have to be supported with strong evidence.

Since many States in the United States of America have had a school-leaving age of sixteen for more than twenty years, and some, one of 17+, why should we assume that teachers in England are not able to make a sixteen leaving age "socially acceptable" if their counterparts across the Atlantic have already done so? Teachers in England have always responded to the increasing demands that we have made upon them, and I, for one, refuse to believe that they will fail the nation now, provided that we give them the right conditions for work.

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Fig. 2. Scrapers (dorsal view)

Fig. 3. Scrapers (ventral view)

The specimens of flakes could be of upper Acheulian tools belonging to early Sohan industries². The scrapers show resemblances with early Soan flakes.

To my knowledge there is no record of such palaeolithic find hitherto from Khandesh, this being the first find of such type from the Girna River in the Tapi Valley from Khandesh. It is suggested that a systematic survey of the river valleys which has hitherto been neglected be undertaken by archaeologists, as it may one day show rich finds since this area was once a Narbada basin during the post-Eocene era.

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Nov. 15.

¹ Foote, J., *J. Palaeo. Soc. India*, 1 (1), 28 (1956).

² De Terra and Paterson, "Studies in the Ice Age in India and Associated Human Cultures" (Washington, 1939).

³ De Terra and Paterson, *J. Palaeo. Soc. India*, 1 (1) (1956).