

**Zeitschrift:** Schweizer Erziehungs-Rundschau : Organ für das öffentliche und private Bildungswesen der Schweiz = Revue suisse d'éducation : organe de l'enseignement et de l'éducation publics et privés en Suisse

**Herausgeber:** Verband Schweizerischer Privatschulen

**Band:** 30 (1957-1958)

**Heft:** 8

**Rubrik:** Schweizer Umschau

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ted magazines and learn them from the soap-box orators in Hyde Park.

Their attitude towards boys has become more natural, but they often lack that dignity and tact which show a boy how far he may go, and which can only be learned in the family through the example of parents.

It is every teen-ager's wish to be looked upon as grown up—thus when school forbids lipsticks and make-up, the minute the school door has closed behind them they make up, often in rather a vulgar way—for here again a sense of proportion and a refined taste is lacking. They prefer to look like a scarecrow rather than ask for their mother's advice.

They want an unlimited freedom; nearly all hate being asked to lend a hand in the household, or being questioned as to where they are going in the evening and with whom. The less they are asked, the less they will feel forced to lie. When a girl has been brought up in a nice home, and has a mother who does not intrude her advice, but is always ready to help her, this girl can be relied upon to conduct her life sensibly. But when the parents have not given their daughter the support of a happy home, they have reason to be distrustful and afraid of what may happen to her.

The lack of a happy home is also apparent in a girl's social attitude. Her life is ruled by egotism; she only does what appears to be to her own advantage without any consideration for others, or any desire to help them. For her the teaching "love thy neighbour as thyself" is meaningless—until that time when love at last enters into her own life. And this love—be it for a teacher, for an older boy or for a girl-friend—will suddenly transform her whole outlook on life. All her female qualities will awake, and though she may still prefer trousers to skirts there will be many hours in every week when she feels and behaves exactly like the young girls of the pre-war age and is perfectly happy in loving and being loved. Many parents resent this stage more than her former recklessness, for their jealousy is aroused towards this outsider who seems to have stolen their daughter's love. The attitude that they take now will be decisive for the future and will either cause a total break or will gradually restore confidence in them.

#### *Use of Leisure Time*

WHAT do teen-agers do with their leisure time? Today very few adolescents read—devouring books for the sheer pleasure of reading as former generations did. Between the ages of 10 and 12 they have read all the books by Enid Blyton and, of course, they

have had to read Shakespeare and Dickens at school, but by the time they are 15 they have generally stopped reading. They seem no longer to be able to concentrate on a long novel, they prefer to look at illustrated magazines, turn over the pages of a digest or switch the wireless on and listen to jazz. Of course many of them are fond of sport: of tennis and swimming, and especially of dancing, but they are also very fond of doing absolutely nothing. Cinema and television are killing the creative power in our children, much as we admire the attempt of some schools to stimulate creative ability.

When we ask the girls between 12 and 14 years of age: "What will you be when you are grown up?" most of them say they want to go to a University and become doctors or scientists. Between the ages of 15 and 17 they want to go to Art Schools, become dress-designers, models, actresses, film-stars. They all wish to marry, and even those who choose the University career do so only as an insurance "in case the right man does not turn up." or to "while away the time usefully until..." When I asked a girl student why she was going up to Cambridge, she answered: "You see there are two women's colleges and eighteen for men, so the girls can pick and choose and really have a chance of finding the right man." Of course, there are always a few who study because they love studying; they are admired, but they are not very popular among their contemporaries.

In spite of the present day teenagers' character, they have a healthy, natural base, and many of them have already realised—young as they are—that a man needs a mother, a sister, a loving wife—not a money-earning, professional comrade.

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Toleranz und Schwäche ist niemals ein ethischer Wert; aber trotz entschiedener Kraft tolerant zu sein, ist das große Problem, dessen Grenzlinien nur das Leben lehrt und keine Theorie.

Die höchste Tat enthält am meisten Bindung — vor sich, in sich, nach sich.

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#### SCHWEIZER UMSCHAU

Soeben ist das Programm der Allgemeinen Abteilung für Freifächer der *Eidg. Techn. Hochschule*, Zürich erschienen.

Der Besuch der Vorlesungen der Allgemeinen Abteilung ist jedem, der das 18. Altersjahr zurückgelegt hat, gestattet. Die Programme können im Zimmer 37c im Hauptgebäude der ETH bezogen werden.