REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE REORGANIZATION OF SCIENCE IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.¹

A committee consisting of forty-seven science teachers has been working for over seven years upon the "Reorganization of Science in the Secondary Schools." The committee was organized with a small supervisory committee and subcommittees, representing each of the sciences included in the report. Conferences concerning the material to be included in the report have been held in all parts of the country in order that the freest possible discussion might be secured. Studies have been made of progressive experiments in science teaching in many schools, and the results of these experiments have been included in the report. Due to these conferences and to the progressive work upon which they were based much of the material included in this report has been already incorporated into the practice of many schools. Therefore, the report is not so much an argument as to what ought to be done in the schools as it is a record of work already accomplished by progressive science teachers.

Some of the topics covered in the report are:

The aims, methods, and organization of the sciences as a whole in secondary education; General principles governing the selection of material and its presentation; Science sequences recommended for various types of schools; the principal courses in science—General science; Biological sciences; Chemistry; Physics; and, The Science Teacher. Each of the preceding topics is treated under a detailed outline, and with abundant reference to contents of courses and methods of presentation.

Probably the following quotation from the preface will give the best impression of the general nature of the report:

"The committee on science of the Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education has carried on its work by means of discussions, correspondence, and formulation of preliminary reports for over seven years. The discussion of preliminary reports by groups, committees, and at meetings of science teachers has revealed progressive work already under way and has led to the trial of preliminary recommendations. Some of the improvements that the committee sought to effect have already been adopted by many of the best schools. The full report¹ herein presented, formulated through this procedure, incorporates practices that have proved most useful. It asks for only those features of reorganization that have been found to work well, or which by a fair amount of trial promise improvements. Further experiments with new courses in science, or with the readjustment of older courses, may make desirable and necessary a revision of the report before many years have passed.

"The report embodies contributions and criticisms of more than 50 science teachers and administrative officers. It does not include every proposal, as some such proposals are not fully approved by others. Some members of subcommittees have been unable to send criticisms of the full report, but because of their previous important work on subcommittees their names are included in the list of members.

"OTIS W. CALDWELL,

"Chairman Committee on Science.

"CLARENCE D. KINGSLEY,

"Chairman of the Commission."

¹This report has just appeared as "Bulletin No. 26, 1920, United States Bureau of Education," and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at ten cents per copy.