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STANDARD EFFICIENCY TESTS FOR BOYS

EUGENE C. FOSTER.

Secretary International Committee of Y. M. C. A.

The Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests for Boys were published October, 1912. Even before that date the proposed program for the boys of Canada had attracted the attention of workers with boys in the United States; and since the original publication and the widening of the scope of these tests, together with the successful working out of the program in many localities and under varying conditions, leaders have felt convinced in an increasing degree that a similar program should be made available for boys in the United States.

The Association of Boys' Work Secretaries of the Young Men's Christian Association gave some attention to the matter through a special committee and accomplished enough by way of experiment to demonstrate the fact that a similar program would undoubtedly find a place here. It was evident, however, that a volunteer committee of men whose time was occupied with local matters could not carry this plan forward successfully; with this conviction before them, the Association of Boys' Work Secretaries, at a meeting in Cleveland, in May, 1916, requested the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations to become responsible for the development of a program of this general character. This the International Committee agreed to do, and appointed a committee consisting of F. W. Ayer, E. M. Robinson and Eugene C. Foster, to take up this work.

The Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests are now jointly promoted in Canada by the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations, The Sunday School Commission of the Church of England in Canada, The General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies of the Methodist Church, The Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, The Sunday School Boards of the Baptist Conventions in Canada and The Canadian Council of Provincial Sunday School Associations.

Because of this definite co-operation there is a unity in the presentation of the boys' work program in Canada which is quite remarkable. During October, November and December, 1916, a coast-to-coast tour was carried out, beginning at Charlottetown and

ending at Vancouver, the members of the traveling team representing different communions, the S. S. Association and the Y. M. C. A.

The American Standard Program for work with boys is based on the material used in the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests, with, however, many changes in the tests required. For instance, references to Canadian national loyalty or institutions have been replaced by references suitable to the United States. Certain tests have been modified, or have been entirely substituted by others, in an effort to improve wherever possible.

The American Standard Program is now published by the Young Men's Christian Association Press, at present in proof form only in order that it may be used experimentally in as widely varying fields as may be secured.

The committee having the matter in charge believe that the program in its present form is a definite step toward reaching a program which may be acceptable to the Christian institutions of the United States. Such a program should be; (a) *Graded*, in order that boys of different ages may be included; (b) *Progressive*, in order that the boy may be conscious of increasing demands upon his capacities; (c) *Diversified*, in order that the boy may be symmetrically developed. It should be a program, not an organization; it should make possible individual work, group work, and mass work; it should be applicable in country and city, to the school boys and to the working boys, and should be based on what is best for the boy rather than primarily on what is best for the institution which promotes it. It should be rigid enough to create and maintain national standards, but should be flexible enough to be adapted to all groups dominated by the Christian motive. It should be national in character but capable of separate administration. These tests the American Standard Program is designed to meet.

The committee is desirous of securing all possible data on the experimental use of the program in its present form. That many of the tests could be improved is evident; the exact manner in which these may be improved, and the tests which should be substituted for those suggested are matters which the actual use of the program can best determine.

The charting of a boy is the essential first step in the use of the program. This charting is done in a personal interview between an adult leader and the boy, and aims to accomplish three things: (a) To help the boy to take account of stock of his own achievements; (b) By comparing this record with a suggested record for a boy of his age to cause him to be constructively dissatisfied with his attain-

ments; (c) To help him to find out how he can make up any deficiency which may exist. Having been charted, the boy is then ready to take up the assigned work of the program and proceed toward the time of a second charting, fixed usually at the end of the season or of the year involved.

The committee is eager, if possible, to secure the adoption in this country of a uniform program of boys' work which shall be endorsed and promoted by the Christian agencies dealing with boys. To this end the American Standard Program has been offered for experimental use looking toward its wide-spread use by all who are interested if a desire for such use becomes manifest. To this end, also, the committee is co-operating with similar committees from other religious bodies to work out a standard program which may be acceptable to all. It is hoped that one or the other of these efforts will finally result in a program of such unity that the Christian forces of this country may stand together in the program of building Christian men out of available boys.

The following arrangement suggests the general outline on which the tests of the American Standard Program are based and the numerical grades allowed in each case:

AMERICAN STANDARD PROGRAM CHART

"Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."—Luke 2:52
 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, strength, mind; and thy neighbor as thyself"—Luke 10:27

INTELLECTUAL STANDARD			RELIGIOUS STANDARD		
Credits—Obtainable; Allowed			Credits—Obtainable; Allowed		
1	School or College.....	400	1	Church and Bible School.....	400
2	Sex Education.....	120	2	Mid-Week Bible Discussion.....	200
3	Public Speaking.....	120	3	Morning Watch.....	150
4	Home Reading.....	70	4	History of Religion.....	50
5	Educational Lectures.....	50	5	Music.....	50
6	Educational Trips.....	70	6	Poetry.....	50
7	Craftsmanship.....	100	7	Art.....	50
8	Observation } Woodcraft	70	8	Nature.....	50
Total.....		1000	Total.....		1000
PHYSICAL STANDARD			SERVICE STANDARD		
Credits—Obtainable; Allowed			Credits—Obtainable; Allowed		
1	Health Education.....	200	1	Member Boys' Organization.....	100
2	Camp Craft.....	150	2	Ability to Entertain.....	200
3	Team Games.....	170	3	Training for Service.....	200
4	Group Games.....	50	4	Personal Service.....	140
5	Swimming.....	130	5	Good Citizenship.....	130
6	Running.....	100	6	Three C's Campaign.....	100
7	Jumping.....	100	7	Choosing Life Work.....	140
8	Throwing.....	100	8	Heroes of Service } Nation Study	140
Total.....		1000	Total.....		1000

A graphic chart is used at the time of the personal interview of the boy with the adult leader, and the numerical results secured according to the above standards are reduced to percentage terms and a "line of balance" is secured and recorded thereon.