Second Annual Winter Reading Conference

A large number of out-of-state supervisors and principals were present at the second annual winter Reading Conference which opened January 10 on the Peabody campus under the sponsorship of the Tennessee Department of Supervision of Instruction and the Child Study Clinic of Peabody College.

The mid-winter conference, under the direction of Dr. Ullin W. Leavell, head of the Peabody Study Clinic, followed a series of summer Reading Laboratory Institutes which have been held for eight consecutive years. The conferences deal with diagnostic and remedial reading work for children in general, and the conference this month placed special emphasis on the problems of supervision of instruction in reading.

A special feature of the conference program was the lectures given by Dr. Guy T. Buswell, head of department of educational psychology, University of Chicago. On Wednesday morning, January 10, Dr. Buswell spoke on "Administrative and Supervisory Responsibility in Reading Instruction," and on Thursday morning, "Instruction and Supervision in the Light of Research." On Wednesday evening he was the leader of a panel discussion with Dr. Leavell dealing with the problems brought in from the group meetings held earlier on Wednesday.

Dr. Buswell has done special research work in the fields of eye movements in reading, reading patterns of adults, clinical remedial procedures with retarded readers, reading of modern foreign languages, the psychology of perception in art and the psychology of arithmetic.

Following Dr. Buswell's first lecture on Wednesday afternoon, group meetings led by Mrs. Naomi Willco, State Department of Education, Frankfort, Ky.; Miss Margaret Williams, Supervisor in Memphis Public Schools, Memphis; Miss Elizabeth McCain, Board of Education, Memphis; L. R. Wheeler, East Tennessee State College, Johnson City; and Dr. Leavell were held from 3:30 to 4:30 o'clock.

A tea-tour of the Peabody Child Study Clinic from 4:30 to 6 o'clock was a part of the Wednesday program. The Clinic, a pioneer enterprise in the field of diagnosis and remedial work for children of normal and superior ability retarded in fundamental school subjects, has recently entered into a greatly enlarged program made possible by a $25.00 gift donated by a local citizen.

Other participants in the panel Wednesday afternoon meeting were Miss Mary Hall, State Teachers College, Memphis; Miss Louise Oakley, Memphis State College, Memphis; Miss Grethel Hyder, East Tennessee State College, Johnson City; and Dr. Maycie Southall, Peabody College.

Dr. Southall Relected to Educational Policies Commission

Dr. Maycie Southall has been reelected to membership on the Educational Policies Commission for a three-year term.

This Commission is the policy-making group of the National Education Association and the American Association of School Administrators. Realizing that plans for postwar education cannot be hastily improvised, the Commission is developing policies and suggesting in some detail how approved principles can be carried out in practice. It is hoped thus to stimulate and aid the planning and action which soon must be undertaken in all states and communities if American schools are to meet the responsibility that is upon them.

Education for All American Youth, in which are given programs of education for the secondary schools, was the most important publication of the past year, and one of the most outstanding of the life of the Commission. Other publications of the year include A Program for the Education of Returning Veterans, in which the educational profession is urged to alert and dynamic leadership, and three new pamphlets based on an earlier publication, Education and the People's Peace.


On Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock reports on special research in supervisory work and instruction in the programs of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee were given. After the second lecture by Dr. Buswell, a summation and evaluation of the conference was made by W. F. Hall, State Department of Education, Little Rock, Ark.; Clayton James, Middle Tennessee High School Supervisor, Murfreesboro, and W. C. Jones, Graduate School Dean, Peabody.

The conference closed Thursday afternoon with a demonstration of diagnostic clinical procedures at the Child Study Clinic. With the exception of the last meeting, all meetings took place in the auditorium of the Peabody Demonstration School.

Dr. R. Lee Thomas, supervisor of the State Department of Supervision of Instruction, delivered the closing address on Wednesday afternoon at the beginning of the two-day conference. Formerly held only for Tennessee supervisors and principals, this conference was the first to include participants from all of the southern states.