

Vocational Guidance on the Air

AN OCCUPATIONAL RADIO FORUM

AMONG the many familiar educational broadcast features discussed by nationally known radio specialists and educators at the first National Conference on Educational Broadcasting held in Washington December 10-12, 1936, was the American School of the Air conducted by the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each Friday afternoon during the school year, from 2:30 to 2:45 E.S.T., a dramatic portrayal of some phase of occupational interest is included in this feature. CBS actors use scripts provided by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the National Occupational Conference. They are prepared by Frances Maule under the direction of the Committee on Vocational Guidance of the National Advisory Committee on Radio in Education, Harry D. Kitson, Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, chairman. The first of the scripts used this year, broadcast on October 16, is presented in full by OCCUPATIONS, beginning on the next page.

Adaptation of the community forum idea to educational broadcasts also re-

★ Having had no steady employment for a period of four years, Jim Purdy was ready to "crack up" and go on relief when opportunity knocked in the form of a community forum on unemployment. What happened is set forth in the first radio drama in the current series of vocational guidance broadcasts over the 87 stations of the CBS American School of the Air. Editors of Occupations are pleased to present the script of this fifteen-minute drama for the benefit of those readers who may have missed the broadcast, and because it illustrates a successful method in education by radio.

ceived favorable comment at the Washington Conference. The forum idea was carried out in the first three of the occupational broadcasts, of which "Is It Possible to Have a Job for Everybody?" is an example. Acceptability of this type of broadcast was shown in receipt of many letters following radio presentation.

Use of the forum plan on the air is in line with growing interest in the community forum as an educational medium throughout the country. The idea is being used effectively in the dissemination of occupational information to lay groups in Richmond, Virginia, under the direction of O. Latham Hatcher.

Organization of an Educational Radio Script Exchange as a

part of the service of the United States Office of Education was announced at the Washington Conference by John W. Stuebaker, Commissioner of Education. The occupational scripts are of such calibre that Dr. Kitson has been asked to send copies for cataloging and possible reproduction for use in advancing the value of educational broadcasting.

Dr. Stuebaker said one of the great

needs of radio in education is for good scripts. The exchange will reproduce outstanding educational radio scripts and supply suggestions and guides for the successful writing and production of scripts. More than 100 scripts are now on hand and a catalog is being mimeographed for wide distribution among interested educators.

In introducing the first occupational

dramatization last fall, Dr. Kitson said the broadcast series was designed to help the five million youth of America who lack constructive occupation to find out where the jobs are, what opportunities they offer, where changes and developments affecting employment are most likely to occur, and what qualities one should cultivate to get ahead. The script follows: