

https://dspace.org/

Alma Mater

Rose, Brian Waldron

1960-09
Johannesburg College of Education
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24330
Rose, B.W. (1960, September). Alma Mater. Symposium: A Journal for Education in Southern Africa, p. 96.

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ALMA MATER

THE JOHANNESBURG COLLEGE OF EDUCATION celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1959; and it was from this pleasant if ephemeral occasion that *Symposium* was born. The Journal was to be a tribute to the little army of men and women who, having trained here during the past half-century, had since dispersed all over Southern Africa, to become the architects of a nation.

Symposium was to be a gesture of faith in the future, a focus for the educational thought of the English-speaking community of Southern Africa, a platform for its problems, its needs, its aspirations. From the very first number it was hoped to set a standard of discussion that was free, mature, constructive, unfrightened and generous.

Probably the largest English-medium Training College in Africa, with an enrolment of some 1,200 students, the Johannesburg College of Education occupies a very special position, for it is one of the major instruments whereby the English-speaking community perpetuates itself.

Apart from its obvious function of direct training, of refresher courses and so forth, the College increasingly acts as a fulcrum for many interests which overlap education, co-ordinating a wide variety of activities in the broad pattern of modern urban society. It was here that the World Council for Mental Health held its regional conference early in 1960, an occasion that brought together educationists, psychiatrists and clinicians in the exploration of divergent viewpoints and related disciplines which was so fruitful that it led soon after to a further conference that gave psychologists a chance to explain to a large body of interested educationists their problems, methods and approaches.

In like manner the College has very close and practical ties with theatre, particularly with bodies such as the Alexander Theatre and Children's Theatre, whose advice and frequent assistance in the dramatic work of the College have been stimulating and valuable. Through members of its staff there are connections with writers, both in Die Skrywerskring (Afrikaans Centre of P.E.N.) and with P.E.N. itself, which is the English-speaking association. One recalls that among other writers who made their mark, Herman Bosman was a member of this College.

Co-operation between the College and other educational institutions such as the University, other Training Colleges, Teaching Hospitals, or the Child Guidance Clinic has been both practical and close. And in the same manner lecturers have played an important part in Teacher Associations, and related educational bodies such as Red Cross.

This sense of social awareness in the Johannesburg College of Education, its appreciation of its role as an integrating factor in the society that it serves, is largely the vision of its present Rector, who sees the institution acting as a dynamic focus for the problems and aspirations of present-day South Africans, and the English-speaking community in particular. And it is with this spirit that this Journal associates itself, for only through the upsurge of faith in Africa itself, its diverse peoples, its destiny and its uniqueness, only with a real generosoity of mind that, in Jacques Maritain's wonderful phrase, fosters the "disposition to be a person who exists *gladly*" shall we emerge whole from the trauma of present change.

SYMPOSIUM was printed by the Pacific Press, of Fox Street, Johannesburg, and published by the College of Education, Johannesburg, assisted by The Council of Education for the Witwatersrand.