

Students at Work.

"Work experience" is a comparatively new term in the vocabulary of pedagogues. It was put into circulation about three years ago by the Youth Commission of the American Council on Education, which argued that the academic training most boys and girls receive in the high schools is far removed from the type of vocations they most frequently follow after graduation. It suggested that some form of actual employment — "work experience" — be made part of the curriculum, so that adolescents might develop proper "work habits." After-school jobs were suggested for some pupils; a program of alternating periods of employment with periods of school attendance was suggested for others.

To carry out any such plan at a time when many adults were still out of work was, of course, almost impossible. The war has changed that. Boys and girls can now earn something toward the family budget by working after school hours, on Saturdays or during vacations. They may thus acquire the recommended "work experience." Moreover, if such jobs are arranged under the auspices of the school system the young workers may obtain Regents' credit. A few days ago the State Education Department announced that a student who works in a store or office for fifteen hours a week throughout the school year may obtain credit for one Regents' unit. This, roughly, is equivalent to the credit obtainable by studying a prepared subject for one period a week.

It is to be hoped that the New York city school officials will make use of this arrangement as soon as possible. "Work experience" for youth is sound educationally and, right now, is something which can be used by a nation complaining of a shortage in man power.