

Educating The New Negro

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The American Negro is now entitled to many more opportunities than ever before in the history of America. How will he accept and make use of them? Excluding the exceptionally bright Negro student, of which there are statistically too few, the average Negro student is receiving an inferior education. In the South a few Negro students are integrating schools, but what does this mean if the forces which crippled them in the past are still in operation today? The North, despite its claims, does not truly educate the average Negro student. I am not saying that this is one-hundred percent the case, but it is a consideration.

For one hundred and fifty years most Negroes have been without an adequate education.

Those who achieved an education, in spite of the prevailing difficulties, often found closed doors, insults, and frustrations. Their hopes shrank and their minds withered.

For education to put an end to ignorance, bloodshed, and desperation, top educators must see that lessons in human relations reach the bigoted peo-

ple who can not see past a man's color or religion. If top educators would do this, there would be no Klu Klux Klan.

I once wrote Dr. Benjamin Willis, Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, a letter upon the completion of the building of Juliette G. Low School that "cement blocks and windows do not a school make, but rather the school is the community, the teacher, the student, and the parent working together to provide a climate for learning. We must face the knowledge that all of life is not taught in the classroom; it is learned from everyday experiences to which books, pencils and slide-rule do not apply.

A revolution in education is needed to hasten the emergence of the new Negro.