

The State of Education

'Magyar Nemzet' of 26th January carried an article surveying the state of education in Hungary. As a result of efforts made since the counter-revolution, the paper said, the teaching staff had now "adopted a unanimous attitude concerning the most important political questions" and young people were "more concerned with their studies than with politics". Education on the basis of dialectical materialism had continued, and "the honour of the socialist school" had been restored. The questions of religious instruction and the teaching of Russian had been settled satisfactorily. The Pioneer Movement and KISZ had greatly helped to educate youth in the spirit of communism. The readjustment of teachers' salaries showed the esteem in which they were held by the Government and had contributed to the improvement of their work. Not only had the 300 classrooms damaged or destroyed during the counter-revolution in Budapest been rebuilt, but 34 new ones had been made available for the current school year. The paper noted, however, that there had been a reduction in the proportion of secondary school pupils of worker or peasant origin. But school discipline had been consolidated, and the activities of the "parents' groups" had developed satisfactorily. (MTI 27.1.58)

A new curriculum for the general schools has now been worked out. It will be introduced in stages. New text-books are being prepared. The new curriculum will be less rigid and will seek to inculcate the ideology of dialectical materialism by explaining the laws of nature and society. (Budapest 15.20, 24.1.58)