

# MUSIC

## MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

Instrumental instruction in the public schools today includes a number of activities, such as the toy orchestra in the kindergarten and primary grades, classes in piano and instruction in playing instruments of the orchestra and band, says the United States office of education. A few years ago the rhythm band was considered largely a means for developing rhythmic consciousness, but of late there is a tendency to see in the toy orchestra the first step in leading the children to an interest in instrumental performance. Piano classes were found in only a few school systems ten years ago, but now hundreds of cities are offering instruction to many thousands of children in the elementary schools. At first nearly all of these cities followed the plan of charging the children small fees for their lessons, but gradually there seems to be a tendency toward making this work a part of the regular curriculum, financed by the school, says the office.