

## INDIANA 1-ROOM SCHOOLS DOWN 432 IN 5 YEARS

Average Term Has Increased During Period, State Office Reports.

While the average school term in Indiana has increased in the last five years there has been a reduction of 432 one-room, one-teacher schools, statistics released today by the State Department of Public Instruction showed.

There now are 1192 one-room schools, Floyd T. McMurray, State Superintendent, reported, and within a year that total may be reduced to 1000.

Marion County is one of 19 where school consolidation has been completed, Mr. McMurray said, while of the others, only Union and Knox Counties, are located south of the National Road.

### Four Have Only One

"This shows the relationship of the number of one-room school houses and good roads and soil fertility," Mr. McMurray said.

The others having complete consolidation are Carroll, Cass, Delaware, Hancock, Hendricks, Howard, Huntington, Miami, Montgomery, Newton, Randolph, Rush, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Wayne and Wells. Benton, Clinton, Fulton and Vermillion Counties have only one one-room school house each, and Henry and St. Joseph, have only two each.

Mr. McMurray said the average term length in Indiana is 173 days, while at least a dozen states have longer terms. During the last five years the number of schools maintaining 8½ months terms has increased from 15 to 68; nine months, 583 to 631; 8½ months, 48 to 126, and 10 months, 141 to 146.

## MOORE AND MORGAN NAMED BY DOCTORS

Dr. Robert M. Moore today was new Indianapolis Medical Society president for 1938. Dr. Herman G. Morgan, City Health Board secretary, was chosen president-elect for 1939, first time that office has been on the ballot.

Other officers elected last night were Dr. Robert M. Dearmin, vice-president; Dr. Howard E. Mealy, re-elected secretary-treasurer; Dr. Gerald E. Kempf, re-elected librarian; and Dr. John M. Whitehead, Dr. Kenneth Kohlstadt, Dr. J. William Wright and Dr. Roy Gelder, council members.

## CIGARETS FOR DANCE TO GO TO VETERANS

Cigarettes received for admission to the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Cigarette Dance," Dec. 19 in Tomlinson Hall will be given to disabled veterans, Edward Hartman, chairman, said today.

Distribution will be made in Veterans' Hospital Christmas Day. The County Council and Ladies' Auxiliary of the service group are arranging for the annual event which they said drew 3000 persons last year.

## THREE CIVIL SERVICE TESTS ANNOUNCED

Competitive examinations for three governmental positions were announced today by C. P. Bernhart, U. S. Civil Service Board of Examiners secretary.

The positions are Assistant Fisheries Statistical and Marketing Agent, Junior Fisheries Statistical and Marketing Agent, and Dental Surgeon's Assistant at the U. S. Veterans' Hospital here.

## Likes Chimpanzee's Hands Best



Nellie Simmons Meier

## Palmist Discards Gypsy Dress, Writes 'Best Selling' Books Now

By JOE COLLIER

Nellie Simmons Meier, Indianapolis woman whose book of palm readings, "Lion's Paws," is a "best seller" in the East, herself has small but well-read hands. She lives at 3128 N. Pennsylvania St.

In her small, but elegant study, whose walls are so lined with autographed pictures of the famous that they glitter like spangles, she went patiently, even gallantly, through the vital statistics of an interview. She had what she called an "Indianapolis cold."

Of her age she said:

### Won't Reveal Age

"I really don't know. And I'd have to dust off a family Bible and look through it to find out. I'm not that interested. When I have to give my age, for one reason or another, I just say whatever I feel like or just that I'm of legal age."

On taking her picture, she said: "Most certainly not. I have a peach of a photograph that looks nothing whatever like me. When people see it they never recognize me afterwards and don't even have to say hello."

The most interesting palm she ever read?

"It belonged to Esau II. He was a circus chimpanzee. It showed he had the mentality of an imbecile," she laughed.

### Displays Candid Humor

"Mrs. Meier sat on a settee upholstered in red velvet. Her feet barely touched the floor. She had on a dark copy of her new book. Her conversation bristled with candid humor.

"How did you happen, Mrs. Meier, to get interested in palmistry?" Mrs. Meier sighed a late-afternoon sigh.

"It's so-o-o far back," she said, "and I've told it so many times." She shook her head, and then began perkily.

"I was not good looking when I was a girl and although few could dance better, still at dances I was just among those present. I didn't like it that way. I wanted to be more than that. So I got a book by Cheiro on palmistry

and studied it. Then I got enough people to subscribe at the terrific price of \$10 a reading to make it worth his while to come here. But he was somehow detained and I never met him until several years later when we were living in Paris.

"Gradually I learned to read palms. There is no gift for it. Anyone can do it. You have to study. The brain you know, is connected directly with the hand by nerves and blood vessels and its operation is reflected in the hand."

Mrs. Meier called her secretary and asked for that picture that "looks nothing like me."

"A glossy," she called as the young woman left. She sighed again.

### Played Gypsy Part

"Then I went through that dreadful period of duty palm reading when you dress up in a gypsy costume and sit in stuffy tents at church and social bazaars and read palms and then go buy your own weak lemonade when your voice gives out."

"Oh, yes. Why, only the other day I got a letter from my favorite pastor, saying that the ladies of his church had just begged him to

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ask me to read palms at a church event for the benefit of God and mankind."

"Are you?"  
"Am I? It's the last thing on the face of the earth I'm going to do. But I sent him a nice note to show the ladies, explaining I couldn't and suggesting that they raffle off one of my books to make some money for the charity. I passed those gypsy reading days."

### Read President's Hand

Mrs. Meier has read President Roosevelt's hand but will not repeat the reading so long as he is in office. She has read Mrs. Roosevelt's hand and that will be in the next book. She has read the hands of such people as Sigmund Spaeth, Deems Taylor, Roy Chapman Andrews, Rudy Vallee, Harold Lloyd, Marie Dressler, Walter Huston, Mary Pickford, Richard Halliburton, Amy Mollison and Margaret Sanger. Her earnings from palm read-

ing are contributed to charities, among them being Pine Mountain Settlement School, National Anti-Vivisection Society, National Humane Society, and eight Indianapolis charities, including the Dog Pound, Indianapolis Star Ice Fund, Florence Crittenton Home, Juvenile Detention Home, and Colored Orphans Home.

Her husband, George Philip Meier, who died in 1933, was head foreign buyer and women's dress designer for L. S. Ayres & Co.

She estimates she has read 10,000 palms since 1893. She charges \$5 a reading.

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