

LIFE IN THE SCHOOL ROOM

It Will Begin for Teachers and
Scholars To-morrow.

Three Instructors Have Been Connected
With the Schools of Kansas City
for More Than a Quarter
of a Century.

To-morrow morning the schools of Kansas City will open for the twenty-seventh time, and the army of 12,000 school children will take their places at their desks. To instruct these 12,000 young ideas in the art of intellectual manhood requires 325 teachers and about twenty-five janitors. The preparations for the reopening of the schools have been going on all summer. The echoes of commencement have hardly died away before the arrangements for this fall's work were begun. The result is that the work will start off without the slightest hitch in any department. By 11 o'clock to-morrow every pupil will be properly located and the work of recitation will begin.

The teachers have been arriving from their summer vacations for the past two weeks. The great majority of them have attended the world's fair, and have imbibed the spirit of progress and new methods which breathes in the best which has been done the world over in the line of education. Among the 325 teachers and principals who will to-morrow morning assume their duties will be three who have been connected with the schools for twenty-six years.

The schools of Kansas City were organized in August, 1867, and were opened the following month. Of the sixteen teachers who started in the service of the city twenty-six years ago three are still in the harness. In addition to these three there are several who have been in continuous service of the city for from fifteen to eighteen years. Miss Sallie E. Threlkeld, principal of the Emerson school, started in with the organization of the schools, her first position being in the Fourth ward school. Miss E. B. Dinsmore also started in twenty-six years ago and is still in the employ of the district, being at present principal of the Clay school at Sheffield. She was for years first assistant principal of the Washington. J. D. Bowser, of the Phillips school, is the third teacher who has been connected with the schools since their organization.

Superintendent Greenwood enters upon the twentieth year of his service in the city schools. He came to the city when the schools were only 5 years old and has seen them grow under his direction to their present proportions. Major H. A. White is one of the veterans who have served the schools for eighteen years. He was president of the school board in 1874 and began teaching the following year. He is now principal of the Woodland school, which position he has retained for ten years.

Professor E. C. White, of the high school, has served for twenty-one years. Boys who were born the year he entered the service of the city will vote at the coming election.

Miss Kittie Sullivan, of the Denton school,

Miss Kittie Sullivan, of the Denton school, has been employed as a teacher for nineteen years. Almira Hayes has been eighteen years in the high school and Mary E. Cravens, of the Linwood school, has been in the service of the city for nineteen years. C. F. Sheffield entered the schools the second year after their organization. Miss Mary Gilchrist left the schools this year after a continuous service of seven years.

These are some of the familiar faces which will be seen in the schools this year. But there is a converse and there will be a number of new faces. In addition to the fifteen or twenty substitute teachers who have never had any experience, there will be about ten who have served long and well in other schools and come to Kansas City schools for the first time. Of these, the great majority are those whose parents live here or who have home ties here, but have never taught in the schools of this city.

Professor Adolph Jacquemot comes to the high school as teacher of German and assistant in French. Miss Josie V. Hamilton comes to the Bryant school from the Mexico, Mo., schools; Miss Inez Mack to the Franklin school from New York; Miss Cordie Taylor to the Franklin school from Paola, Kas.; Miss Phoebe Colton to the Irving school from Fort Scott, Kas.; Miss Hattie Allen to the Lathrop school from Harrisonville, Mo.; Miss May D. Sands to the Longfellow school from California; Miss Alice Woodford to the Lowell school from Chillicothe; Miss Jennie Pedigo to the Morse school from Butler, and Miss Mae Ollis to the Washington school from Michigan.

During the summer many changes have been made in the school buildings. Two rooms have been added to the Lowell school. A room for colored children will be opened near the corner of Eighteenth and Woodland for the first and second grades. It was the intention of the board of education to close the Karnes school, but it will be opened as usual. The work on the new high school will not be finished till the first of the year. In the meantime the school will be inconveniently crowded and the work of the school will be more or less interfered with. The enrollment for the high school is already nearly 900 and will exceed 1,000 before the end of the year. The growth of the high school has been one of the marvelous things of the past few years, and this city is the only large city in the country where the percentage of high school members is so large. St. Louis, with a population three times that of this city, graduated only 107 pupils this spring, while Kansas City graduated 117 from the high schools.

The course in the ward schools has been greatly simplified this year and many features have been eliminated which were regarded as impediments. The work in clay modeling, pasting and paper cutting and oral geography has been left out and the time devoted to them will be spent in reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. The work in music and physical culture has not been altered, but the work in arithmetic has been thoroughly overhauled and revised. It is the determination of the board to open up a fire on the solid branches and keep up a continuous fusillade during the entire year. The board of education hopes to accomplish more this year than ever before. Its motto is that no teacher is too well qualified and its policy is to allow neither politics nor religion to enter into the workings of the board.