

AAM: That goes back to the training in the teacher's colleges, which I guess like most of our colleges has deteriorated.

Lady: That was my training 20 years ago. And I was very disillusioned then.

AAM: Is that so?

Lady: Very definitely. Then it was my compatriots who are our middle aged teachers now.

AAM: In other words you had training in teaching. Then you have a great advantage over the mother that wants to keep her children at home.

Lady: Not legally. That's not necessary. And not practically because I don't feel that I benefited from the education that I have.

AAM: You don't feel?

Lady: No I don't.

AAM: When I was in high school my last year. It was a new high school. Now it is a great big one, but it was in a part of town where they just started a high school and most of the students from that part were already in other schools, so it was a small school when I was there. My senior year I took a course in college algebra. There were four of us in the class. The other -- Another fellow and I were interested in learning something. The other two weren't interested. And the teacher seemed to feel that his great objective in life was to keep the class four together. So he gave half his effort trying to teach them a little something and the other half trying to hold us back. Fortunately for our education, one of his children got measles or mumps and they were quarantined as they did in those days. So the other fellow and I went to the board and finished the book. After that he realized he couldn't keep us together so he got us a new book and gave us something. I thought how utterly silly the system was, and I guess it is far worse now!

Lady: I think so. The man who created the math program that I'm using with the children which is an elementary program and is designed around the playing of games, he was originally a lawyer himself. I don't know exactly why he left law and went into teaching. He first taught science and enjoyed it very much because he found that science teaching in the elementary schools was essentially scientific, and was the way a scientist would go about things and he thought it was very good. Then he became a math teacher and found that quite the opposite was true that no self-respecting elementary math teacher would ever think in the terms that elementary math was taught. He thought that was quite unreasonable. So being the sort of person he was he set out to do something about it. The first set of games is called the natural numbers system. Then he has integers. Then fractions. Then algebra. And I understand he's about to come out with his geometry. I'm hoping to go all the way through with him.