

assistant authority to order corporal punishment while it is one of the few measures of authority that he should reserve to himself alone. Secondly, the boys were spanked on the bare flesh which made it possible, on at least rare occasion, for the skin to have been cut and the results to appear gruesome out of proportion to the severity of the spanking. Next, for quite some time, the old custom was employed of spanking the boy in front of the other boys in his cottage. The value of this practice, as a deterrent, is not accepted and it is my opinion that there is nothing to be said in favor of it. In colonial days, we punished in the public square but whether it deterred then, or does now, it offends our sensibilities and we are opposed to it. Finally, it could be administered for an accumulation of minor offenses no one of which justified corporal punishment.

It is still occasionally a kindness to a boy to spank him, but most corporal punishment in real life is a product of stupid handling of a situation or of an impossible situation. I have indicated above that the situation should be improved. I would recommend that the superintendent only, and no one else, authorize a spanking and then only when he is convinced that no satisfactory alternative exists; that he witness its administration often enough to be in no doubt as to its severity, or as to the good judgment that is being shown in other ways; that some article of clothing remain on the boy; that no one be present who is not there for a specific reason; and that a full report of spankings be made to the Advisory Board monthly. Behind that report should be an individual report of each spanking, signed by the superintendent, the person administering the punishment and the witness.

Illicit corporal punishment is the difficult thing to deal with. Several men of Weeks School are too free with their hands. I do not want to be over-critical of the institution itself, because