

# 10-Year-Old Girl Leaves Dolls To Begin Study at Curtis High



**F**RANCES WIGHTMAN, 10-year-old New Brighton pupil, is gazing at her inanimate playmates whom she will leave to enter Curtis High School as a freshman September 11.

## Frances Wightman Likes Comics and Wants to Be Surgeon

**D**OWN in New Brighton, around the corner from Curtis High School, a 10-year-old girl plays contentedly with her dolls, of which she has more than a dozen. Next month she will enter high school as a freshman.

She is Frances Wightman of 33 Central avenue and she graduated last June from Public School 16 in Tompkinsville. At the age of five years she started school and in a few months was studying subjects of the first, second and third grades. At six she was in 3B and receiving report cards marked "superior pupil."

Frances, who is small and shy, says she intends to be a surgeon. Her mother, Mrs. Walter H. Wightman, doesn't know why her daughter chose this profession.

"When she was very young," Mrs. Wightman commented, "she wanted to be a butcher."

### Has Retentive Mind

In grammar school Frances skipped the fourth and seventh grades. Her mother stated that she is just a child who remembers well those things which she has been taught at school. The parents have never coached their daughter after school hours, Mrs. Wightman said.

She will take a general course at Curtis and prepare herself for college. Sports do not interest her, but she spends a great part of her time reading.

"I like fairy stories best of all," Frances admitted without hesitation.

She could read at the age of four and from time to time during her grammar school career she was called upon to take place of a teacher and read aloud to the various classes.

In spite of her scholastic ability, Frances enjoys the same amusements as other 10-year-old girls and is an ardent reader of the newspaper comic strips.

### No Prodigy, Mother Says

Mrs. Wightman is determined that no one shall call the girl a prodigy. She thinks it is a doubtful compliment.

"When she starts high school I want her to go without that handicap," she said, "I don't want people to think her infallible and then criticize her every mistake."

Frances is disappointed that her friends in the neighborhood will not be in high school with her. She does not care for studying, but is anxious for Sept. 11 to arrive as she enjoys going to school.

"I think school is fun," she said, "but vacations are fun, too."

Her mother pointed out that Frances had been absent from school only 20 days during her entire grammar school course. "One week," she said, "was caused by an attack of the mumps."

"My child has been well liked at school," she continued, "because she has been unspooled." Her parents have shown her that although she excels in reading, grammar and other subjects there are pupils much better than she at drawing, singing, etc.

Frances was born on Scribner avenue, New Brighton, and will be 11 years old on Dec. 1. She has two younger brothers.