

on their grounds or along the streets or in vacant lots.

6. The example of well kept, orderly arrangement of lawns and houses is quickly followed; therefore let the members of the Improvement Society have their lawns and gardens neat, flowers and shrubbery planted in them; houses and out-houses painted, fences and gates repaired, and everything about their premises kept neat, attractive and orderly.

Japan's Naval Record.

Since the first of February, 1904, the newly created navy of Japan, with some co-operation of the army at Port Arthur, has sunk or captured sixty-five Russian vessels, including fourteen battle-ships of the first class, twelve armored or protected cruisers, four auxiliary cruisers, three coast-defense iron-clads, eleven gun-boats, and twenty-one torpedo-boats and destroyers. It has also killed or captured eleven Russian admirals, and has taken as prisoners about ten thousand men of the naval rank and file. It has not suffered a single defeat, and although twelve of its vessels have been destroyed by accidental collisions and percussion mines, it has not lost in action, a single ship larger than a torpedo-boat, and it is probably stronger and more efficient than it was a year ago. Such a record as this is not only extraordinary, but absolutely unparalleled; and when we consider the fact that these results have been attained, not by accident or luck, but by organization, practice, good judgment and consummate skill, we must give Japan credit for producing not only good seamen and gunners, but naval commanders worthy to take rank with the first in the world.

Saigo was the teacher of Togo, the illustrious Japanese admiral, and among the precepts of the teacher that seem to have influenced the pupil throughout his career are the following: "Where you see faults, take the blame of them yourself; where there is merit, attribute it to others. Act resolutely and the very gods and devils shall flee before you."—*George Kennan, in the Outlook.*

September Calendar.

September 4th is Labor Day—a public holiday.

September 29th is Michaelmas Day.

September 30th, the first day of the Jewish New Year, begins the year 5666 of the Jewish era.

Nature Study.

Children hunting a lost ball in a meadow adjoining the play-yard discover a ground-bird's nest with four blotched eggs. Their interest is aroused. They describe the nest to the teachers and inquire to what bird it belongs. Unfortunate for them, if he is scientist enough and unpedagogical enough to say at once: "It is a bob-o-link's nest." Better were he a good teacher and no ornithologist, for then he would use their interest to lead to some educational activity which would be far more useful to them than the mere information they seek. But best of all if the teacher knows well both children and birds. In that case he can guide them to discover the answer to their question in an educative way, and in doing so excite them to ask and answer by research many other related questions. He engages their interest at the favorable moment to train them to observe, think, investigate and enjoy. This is Nature study.—*From Dearness's "Nature Study Course," by permission of Copp, Clark and Company, Publishers.*

Eliza and Sarah Flower were gifted English sisters whose earthly lives began and ended between the opening and the close of the first half of the last century; and yet in that brief period both left their impress on their generation; and the younger, Sarah, achieved undying fame by composing the beautiful hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." It was suggested by the story of Jacob's vision at Bethel, as found in Genesis xxviii, 10-22. The hymn was first published in 1841, and although it met with some favor, it was not until 1860 that Dr. Lowell Mason's beautiful and sympathetic music "quickened it into glorious life" and gave it a permanent abiding-place in the hearts of the people.—*The Delineator for September.*

Sumatra grows the largest flower in the world. It measures a yard and three inches across, and its cup will hold six quarts of water. *Rafflesia Arnoldii* is its name.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

The smallest and simplest flowers in the world, consisting of a minute stamen and pistil, are probably the species of *Wolffia*, which grow near the surface of stagnant water as little grains, attached to rootless leaves which float. They are found in Canada near Lake Ontario.

"I found your August number full of helpful suggestions."—M. A. H.