

A LETTER TO COUNTRY TEACHERS.

MARGERY K. COLE in "The School."

The Castle on the Hill.

Dear Girls:

After Four.

Can you hear the school clock ticking loud, insistent ticks as Emmy Lou disappears over the next hill?

It was Emmy Lou who made me want to write to you. Have you read *Emmy Lou* by George Madden Martin? If you read it long before you were teaching that doesn't count. It is not on the lists of books for children but for those who love children. It enables you to see a little child's point of view as could perhaps no other book of its kind. You see with Emmy Lou's own wondering eyes the teacher who made the wee cramped fingers weary with the copying of many digits which were only to be sponged off to make room for yet more digits. Throughout her school experience you never fail to see this teacher or that in a strong light; her weakness or strength in regard to Emmy Lou's upbringing is fully exposed. The book is a veritable inspiration in making you want to emulate one teacher above all others. To read *Emmy Lou* is "to see ourselves as others see us."

The book to help you prevent Emmy Lou from copying digits for naught is Sarah Louise Arnold's *Plans for Busy Work*. It is full of suggestions in number work, language, and reading for seat work. The charts described for drawing and phonics are not too ingenious to copy.

For your awkward second class—or do you like your second class?—in geography our Inspector recommends "Our Home and Its Surroundings." It is more than merely suggestive; the questions at the back which are divided into two groups, those to guide home observation and those for oral or written review, are most practical.

While talking about books—if you went to Normal doubtless you have the *First Book of Farming* by Charles L. Goodrich. Do you get the grant for teaching agriculture. Even if you're teaching nature study, soil tillage, osmosis, and capillarity are beautifully illustrated in their relation to plant life. I have given the book to the boys for a rainy noon hour.

All of these books with the exception of the

last one are not over fifty cents. As Dr. Sandiford said, we must own books to appreciate and assimilate them properly. When your "per annum" is raised, buy Smith's *Systematic Methodology*. It was written for you by a Columbia professor. While it covers nearly everything, it tells you specially how to start the little ones, an art of which every country teacher is not the mistress. Isn't this good? In approaching print "if the teacher does not previously announce that now the child is about to undertake a task that will tax his powers to the utmost, he will make the transition with little difficulty. I was once guilty of printing an M on the board!

If you are booky won't you write and tell me about your particular cronies? Those of which I have told you are the ones which have made easy sailing of some rough places over which I had to steer my bark canoe.

The clock insists? I must stop.

Your co-worker,

A SOMETIME FACULTY GIRL.

THE LIVING AGE.

To busy people who desire to do some reading on topics of the day, and find themselves bewildered by the great number of articles pouring from the press, *The Living Age* is a boon. It presents every week the very best articles from English magazines and papers of such standing as *Blackwood's Magazine*, *The Fortnightly Review*, *The Athenaeum*, and of widely varying opinions. Especially since the war, this publication has been invaluable. The issues for November contain among other articles, "Anglo-American Relations" by James Davenport Whelpley; "Japan's Part in the War," by Robert Machray; "The Governance of Ireland," by Sir Francis Vane; "China's New President and the Political Outlook," by E. C. Cooper. Nor is the range confined to politics and current history. Literary and educational articles, admirable short stories, and the cream of the poetry of today, appear in these pages. We can hardly commend *The Living Age* too highly. It is published every Saturday by The Living Age Company, 6 Beacon Street, Boston. Subscription price, six dollars a year. Postage to Canada fifty cents in addition.

The Allies are now at open war with the government of Greece, though it is believed that a great majority of the people are in full sympathy with the insurrectionists who think that Greece should long ago have joined the Allies.