

## **Practical Hints and Examination Papers.**

**THE THREE KINGDOMS.**—There are three kingdoms,—the Animal Kingdom, the Vegetable Kingdom, and the Mineral Kingdom. Everything that you can mention, that is matter, belongs to these kingdoms.

The Animal Kingdom includes all animals,—everything of animal growth, as fur, feathers, hair, horn, wool and silk, and all articles manufactured from animal substances.

The Vegetable Kingdom is made up of plants and their tissues and products,—as wood, grain, cotton, linen, rubber, etc. Articles manufactured from these materials also belong to this kingdom, as a handkerchief, rubber doll, or sheet of paper.

The Mineral Kingdom includes all rocks, minerals, precious stones, ores, and everything made of the metals, as knives, pens, pins, needles, nails and screws.

Pick up various familiar objects from the desk, as a pen, pencil, crayon, tablet, knife, string, etc., and let the children tell to what kingdom each belongs, and give the reason for their answers; for example—"The tablet belongs to the Vegetable Kingdom; for it is paper, and the paper was made of rags and the rags were made of cotton which grew on a plant."

Decide to which kingdom all the things in the room belong. Many will belong to more than one, as for instance, the desk which is made of wood (vegetable); put together with screws or nails (mineral); and covered with felt or leather (animal).

Let each child in turn hold up some article from his desk or pocket and tell to which kingdom it belongs. The boy's pockets will prove mines of inexhaustible treasures, and the exercise will bring to light buttons of brass, vegetable ivory, and horn,—representative of the three kingdoms,—marbles, coins, apples, candy, nuts, nails, fish-hooks and perchance a grass-hopper, frog or other living subject of the Animal Kingdom.

Having made the subject thoroughly understood, develop it into an exercise for cultivating attention and quick thinking.

Mention the name of some familiar object, and calling on some child to tell what kingdom it represents, give him five seconds for the answer. Mark the time by counting the seconds aloud. If he fails to answer, call upon others in rapid succession, and have your monitor write on the blackboard the names of all who fail to answer.

Beginning with easy objects, work up to more difficult ones, each of which may be developed into a little lesson by itself, if deemed practicable by the teacher. In this way, much information can be given in a short time, for little minds absorb eagerly and quickly when thoroughly aroused.