

laws of life which elevate and sustain the true seeker after knowledge.

It is to be hoped that in this age which boasts its broad liberty and culture, that teachers will learn to define and appreciate the sacredness of their calling, and will instill into their pupils the principles of truth, not forgetting that "liberty wisely understood is but a voluntary obedience to the universal laws of life," that the only ignorance to be deplored is *moral* ignorance, and that culture, rightly understood, means a "study of perfection, an inward condition of the mind and spirit," and that no loftier calling in the world exists than the training of young souls, for "they who instruct others unto justice shall shine as stars for all eternity."—Josephine Donovan, in the *Moderator*.

Practical Hints and Examination Papers.

DICTATION AS A LANGUAGE EXERCISE.

Any kind of training or exercise to be valuable must make the mind work hard. How then may this effective work be done? Instead of mere formal copying of random sentences, dictation exercises should occupy nearly all the time given to written language work in the ward schools as well as in the high school. Such exercises may be conducted thus: The teacher reads a paragraph from one of the reading books used in the school, and from a selection with which the class is already familiar. Now the teacher reads it the second time—a sentence or a piece of a sentence at a time. The pupils having slate and pencil, or pencil and paper, write as the teacher dictates. They have been instructed to use their judgment in regard to capitals, punctuation, quotations and so forth. When the paragraph is thus dictated, then each pupil takes his book and corrects his mistakes from the book. Let this be a part of the language drill each day, and the results will be simply surprising in one year's time. Dictation in the manner indicated involves a great deal in exercising nearly all the child's mental powers. The senses that are brought into play are hearing, sight, the movement of the hand; while attention, observation, memory, imagination, judgment, reason and will are all actively engaged. The hand is trained to keep up with the memory in expressing the