

The Work of the New Year.

There are few teachers who do not profit by their past experiences. What an exhilaration and satisfaction we get out of life when we make the trials as well as the successes of past years help us in our present work. It is a slow process this learning from experience, but if after the week's work is ended, or even at the end of every day, we sit down and think over what plans won success, what plans failed, we are in a pretty good position to lay out a better scheme of work for the coming day or week. Surely this is worth trying. It will find us at the end of the year in a position to look back with satisfaction on the record of the year, with possibly fewer regrets for lost opportunities.

Have you had a "difficulty" with the parents of the children? It might have been lessened or even avoided if in its early stages there had been a frank discussion with the pupils or their parents. Every settlement of a difficulty that is made by the teacher's tact and influence is a victory for good management and good order. The teacher's influence may suffer if school disagreements become a public scandal or have to be settled in law courts.

Have you kept children in after school for some trifling offence that was probably as much due to yourself and the bad air of the room as to any other cause? Reflection will convince you that it is wiser to overlook some small faults, to have an abundant supply of pure air and to let the children see that you enter into their sports and pastimes out of school. Some teachers think there is no getting rid of "keeping in" for misdemeanors or unprepared lessons. But there is. Give it up for a week or a month. Spend the time so used in the bracing air out of doors or in games with the pupils, and a better plan will soon unfold itself to you.

Is there a lack of interest in education in the school section? Set yourself to work to build up a better sentiment. Make the school of which you are the leader the best that the district has ever had. Make yourself an influence in the community by getting the people to read good books, taking part in worthy objects of public improvement, and in having a higher aim in life. *You can do it.*

And your efforts will make this year, 1911, the best year of your life—for yourself and for others.

January Skies.

Let us turn our attention to the northern heavens this month. Every teacher can probably find the North Star, but does she take the trouble to point it out to the pupils until certain that they know it and can pick it out with certainty on any clear night? Such an exact bit of knowledge is important—first, in case of finding one's way at night if one is lost or uncertain about a course; and second, to be positive where the exact point of north is, and marking it by means of buildings or hills, which one cannot do in day time.

Then the North Star is visible every clear night of the year and in the same place. Shakespeare makes Cæsar say:

But I am constant as the northern star,
Of whose true-fixed and resting quality
There is no fellow in the firmament.

It is an event in a child's life when he can trace from evening to evening the majestic movement of the stars (but seemingly, for it is the earth that moves) in a circle round the North Polar Star, and he will realize why it has "no fellow" in the heavens. The fascination of these ever-widening circles, from the little ones near the North Star gradually expanding into great circles until their borders reach the horizon and the zenith, will



tempt a boy or girl abroad, continuing even in after years, to see that the stars are in their places, and have not "risen" and "set" like others in the heavens.