

The League will have pleasure in giving any information which may be asked for on the subject of its mode of work, its system of management, its artistic and educational aims, and, indeed, on any subject within its proper scope.

The keystone of our league may be said to be the recognition of the educational value of good surroundings for our children. By "good" surroundings, we mean: 1st. Proper hygienic conditions of the elementary kind, such as relate to sanitation and ventilation. 2nd. (where possible) a good style of architecture. 3rd. Good colouring throughout the school building. 4th. Mural decorations or framed pictures which should contribute to the education of the scholars by illustrating the subjects referred to in their school books and by insensibly training their eyes to the appreciation of what are universally acknowledged to be standard works of art.

As regards a good style of architecture this is only possible when the building of a new school-house is under contemplation, or when it is possible or desirable to make alterations and improvements in the school already existing. These alterations may be very profitably made, in most instances, by the substitution of more artistically designed woodwork for the inferior sort which is usually found in most of the ordinary school buildings of this country; and even when the expense of putting in new woodwork is beyond the means at the disposal of the school, a great improvement may often be made by a decent and attractive coat of paint.

Good colouring throughout the building is decidedly the most practical, and in most cases the cheapest way to beautify a school-house. On this subject it may be profitable to quote the "Notes and Suggestions" of the Boston Public School Art League:

"A consideration of the subject of wall-tinting led to unexpected results, namely, that the glaring white of the walls of our school-rooms was not only inartistic, but actually injurious to the pupils' eyes, straining and weakening them; and further consideration led to the welcome fact that art and hygiene were here at one, namely, that the tints which would rest and please the eye were also those which were most artistic, such as soft gray-greens or delicate shades of dull blue, while for halls and corridors, terra cotta tones afford a contrast to the class-rooms. Tints should be laid on in flat washes, the depth of color used should depend upon the lighting of the room. In general, the tints are to be selected according to the situation of the room and the lighting of it."