

year, an addition to our building rules, with the object of securing that rooms for woodwork should be planned with the simplicity and economy suitable for workshops. The manual training of girls naturally takes the form of needlework, cookery and laundrywork, and is therefore specially liable to the errors of treatment which convert what should be an educational discipline into a premature form of technical instruction. At the same time we observe with satisfaction that more thought is being given to the ways of teaching these subjects, and we are far from desiring to substitute unreal or fanciful forms of instruction for the more homely, but withal scientific, lessons which best arouse the interest of the children, because they are nearer to their personal experience of daily needs and to the actual circumstances of their home life. It is a grave blunder in a cookery lesson to ignore the humbler and ordinary forms of food, or to provide stoves or appliances of a kind necessarily unknown in cottage life. Equally serious, on the other hand, is the mistake of giving merely rote instruction in subjects which admirably lend themselves to the teaching of the principles underlying wise action, and to the training of those powers of observation and judgment, which are essential to the wise husbanding and economical employment of narrow means. We observe, however, from the general reports of the directress of needlework and of the inspectress of cookery, that much still needs to be done in order to raise the educational value of the instruction in cookery and needlework in many schools. In others, on the other hand, the teaching of cookery has become so efficient that the lessons have been found to produce a perceptible and satisfactory improvement in the homes of the working classes.

Cottage Gardening.

"We are glad also to recognize cottage gardening as capable of being made a valuable instrument in education. Encouraging reports reach us of the interest which is being taken in school horticulture and of the pride of the children in their trim and well-kept gardens. Gardening is so wide spread an interest in English life, and is in so many ways a useful recreation for men and women of all classes, that we have drawn the special attention of your majesty's inspectors to the conditions on which we desire its encouragement in connection with the schools. We have pointed out that the main object of a school garden is not the putting of boys as apprentices to the gardener's craft. We fully recognize the improvement, which a thorough knowledge of cottage gardening may effect in the condition of the working classes in agricultural districts, but as a school subject, its teaching also serves general educational purpose. In order to effect this purpose, we have recommended that the lessons in elementary science, which are given in the schoolroom, should be illustrated by practical work in the garden, in order that the science may escape being mere book-learning, and the garden may become something more than mere technical training.

The Rural School.

"We are glad to think that cottage gardening will prove a specially useful and interesting subject in the curriculum of the country schools. The country school and the town school have always had their characteristic excellences, and there is every reason why pains should be taken to prevent the first from becoming a dull copy of the second. The rural teacher needs special skill in organization, but has also special opportunities of interesting his scholars by illustrations from the common objects of the country. It is desirable that in the training colleges care should be taken to show students that much which will give life and interest to their teaching is ready to their hand in a country district. It is sometimes forgotten that one of the most natural and fruitful methods of education is to train the powers of observation, and to build up intellectual and scientific interests