

The various helps for teaching in common schools may be classified as follows :—

1. REFERENCE BOOKS.—Under this head we may name a dictionary (an unabridged one for the teachers and more advanced pupils, and smaller ones, octavo size, “academic” or “high school,” for the pupils), a geographical gazetteer, and, if possible, an encyclopedia. (The last named need not be a voluminous work for country schools.)

2. APPARATUS.—The means for instruction or illustration are so numerous and expensive to-day—many of them very costly and totally useless in village and country schools—that a close scrutiny and careful selection are necessary in order not to encourage extravagance.

For teaching *reading*, a set of reading charts or a reading machine, is very helpful.

For *arithmetical* instruction, an abacus or counting frame, a set of arithmetical charts and of geometrical blocks, should be purchased.

In *geography*, a globe (at least six inches in diameter), a slated globe, a map of the county, a map of the state, a map of the United States, a map of the hemispheres, and a set of geographical charts for illustrating the elementary phases of the science, and in graded schools, maps of the other parts of the world and a map of the world (Mercator's projection) are desirable.

For *historical* teaching, publishing houses have recently furnished some apparently valuable contrivances, which are interesting to the student of history in college or university only. The best historical charts in common schools are those which the pupils themselves prepare, under the direction of the teacher, as a review after a certain period of history has been mastered.

For illustrations in *physics*, the country school needs very little apparatus, unless the teacher is able to handle it successfully. The best or most useful apparatus in this branch is that which the teacher himself makes, or the teacher and his pupils manufacture themselves. (Air-pumps, electric machines and batteries, purchased at the instigation of an enthusiastic, competent teacher of physics, are, after his departure, often left to rust and decay in the dust of the garret or cellar, under his successor; and this want of care has, in many instances, prevented school boards from making purchases in that line again.)

Some specimens of stuffed mammals and birds will be found very useful in teaching *zoology*. Reptiles, batrachians and fishes