

more will be gained by a courteous one than by a curt demand. What do you think? I expect my girls will say "but that seems like being politic," and if they do I shall refer them to Webster that they may discover that politic means "wise, prudent, sagacious" as well as "artful, cunning." I do not wish to give up that word as used in its "good sense" yet-a-while.

If you have any suggestions that might be added to mine, let me have them as soon as convenient. How is the work going on in the new field? Have you grown to feel at home in it yet? Write me all about it. And now, good night.

Very sincerely your friend, FIDELIA KING.

[The EDUCATIONAL RECORD does not reach the parents of the province, hence we ask the co-operation of the local newspaper in disseminating such an experience as the above.]

### PRACTICAL GEOMETRY FIRST.

To the Editor EDUCATIONAL RECORD :

DEAR SIR,—There are very few pupils in the first grade of our Academies who like Euclid and as a natural consequence that subject is regarded as the driest of all appointed for that grade and is not unfrequently a positive failure.

This year I have tried the introduction of Practical Geometry in all grades, in order that the pupils may become familiar with some of the figures of Euclid. All that is required is a pair of compasses and a ruler for each pupil, and black-board compasses for the teacher. I began by giving practical explanations of Euclid's definition of lines, angles, triangles, the square, circle and trapezium and caused my pupils to work the figures step by step on their papers as I put them on the black-board.

After this we bisected straight lines, arcs and angles, constructed squares and triangles, etc. All this practical work has had the effect of interesting every pupil in proving by actual measurement the correctness of his work, and I have no doubt that when the time comes to study the subject theoretically, the drudgery of learning off like a parrot the fact that "If one straight line meet two straight lines so as to make the two interior angles on the same side of it together less than two right angles, these two straight lines shall at length meet on that side on which are the two angles which taken together are less than two right angles" will disappear.

Farnham, P.Q.

ERNEST SMITH.

### Books Received and Reviewed.

[All Exchanges and Books for Review should be sent direct to Dr. J. M. Harper, Box 305, Quebec, P.Q.]

Among the most welcome of our exchanges, *The School Journal* (weekly) and the *Teachers' Institute* (monthly), both published by