

CHRISTMAS SCHEME FOR THE KINDERGARTEN.

Now that Christmas is drawing near, and a festive air hovers over the school, the little ones begin to talk eagerly of what they hope Santa Claus will bring them, and also of the jolly times they hope to have at school. Although war may make some difference to children of older years, most of the little ones will receive their usual gifts from school.

The wise teacher will therefore introduce into the ordinary curriculum in good time seasonable talks and lessons, and thus combine work and pleasure.

The following scheme for the six-year-old class has proved a great success, says *The Teachers' World* (England), and is well worthy of a trial.

RECITATION.

The recitation chosen is a selection from "A Visit from St. Nicholas," by C. Moore.

An interesting talk of the names by which other little children call Santa Claus will prove a good introduction, *i. e.*, "Saint Nicholas," by the American and Dutch little ones, "Noel" by the French, and "Santa Claus" or "Father Christmas" by our own, are all one and the same magic person.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS.

By CLEMENT MOORE.

Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound,
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes are all tarnished with ashes and soot,
A bundle of toys he had hung on his back,
And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack.
His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

PICTURE DRAWING.

To add to the joy and attraction of learning about his visit, teacher should draw in coloured chalks the picture of Santa Claus driving his

reindeer in a sledge. This can be sketched in rough outline whilst the children are repeating the words of the recitation. It illustrates the recitation remarkably well, and helps in the recital of the poem.

PICTURE STORY READINGS.

It may also be used in the reading on the blackboard as a picture story lesson. For instance:

- (1) "This is Santa Claus."
- (2) "He has four reindeer."
- (3) "They pull the sledge along."
- (4) "Santa Claus has a bag of toys on his back."
- (5) "There are ships, bonbons, flags, sweets, drums, and dolls."
- (6) "I hope he will not forget to come to us."

It is not necessary for the children to learn all the hard words. "Santa Claus" they will easily recognise, because they know the name so well. Such picture lessons prove an admirable aid to fluency in reading.

SONG.

An easy Christmas song with a swing is greatly appreciated, and sung with enthusiasm.

A very good one, quite suited to children of this age, is "The Christmas Stocking," in Book 3, "Action Songs," by Annie Armstrong and M. Gillington. For those unable to obtain this, there are plenty of Christmas songs, and one at least should be taught at this time.

FREE PAPER CUTTING AND COLOURING.

An extra lesson connected with the subject might be taken in free paper cutting.

A fir-tree will be roughly drawn on a large sheet of brown paper by teacher. Children will cut out and colour any toy which they would like Father Christmas to bring them. These toys are then pasted on the tree by the children themselves.

The effect is very pretty and attractive, whilst the educational value of free cutting is too well known to require demonstration. Such articles, as a drum, whistle, whip, top, boat, boxes, bonbons, Christmas stockings, etc., are very easy to cut and colour, and even those of more difficult shape are attempted by the children simply because they are so interested in their work.