

PLANS OF THE LEAGUE.

Some of the central ideas for which this School Improvement League stands are well worth setting forth. The fundamental thought is that of the school community plan. The school-house is to be made a center of social and educational activity—not all at once, for the promoters of this league believe in doing one thing at a time, but gradually, beginning with a movement for better physical surroundings.

Teachers are advised not to undertake to carry the enterprise themselves, for it is not primarily a teacher's movement. What is wanted is a strong and vital interest on the part of pupils and patrons. Such a motive will be best served by making children and parents do something for the school, by giving them a proprietary interest in its well looking and well being.

The general plans of the league are comprehensive, but for the present it is judged wisest to concentrate attention upon the question of remedying defects in school equipment and construction. Accordingly a campaign of education is being waged which is resulting in almost marvelous improvements. Here are a few of the things that are now urged upon the schools :

Flags for such schools as have none ; the local G. A. R. and W. R. C. organizations to be interested in this movement.

Planting of trees and shrubs. Numerous copies of "How to Set out Trees and Shrubbery" by Mr. J. B. Upham, of the Youth's Companion, have been sent out through the courtesy of the author to Maine district teachers.

Yards to be graded ; men of the community to be pressed into service for this work.

Arbor day to be celebrated by removing tumble-down fences, rocks, and stumps, and by planting trees.

Flowers to be planted and flower beds to be kept in order by special committees.

School libraries to be started everywhere. Proper cases should be made by a local carpenter or by one of the boys who is handy with tools. All books should contain a list of rules governing their loan. Twenty-five to thirty books can be bought for ten dollars—a good nucleus for a library. "Book sociables," literary entertainments, etc., will help to augment library fund.

The traveling library system and its advantages should be made known throughout the state. The cost is trifling. Write the State Librarian, Augusta, Me., for information.

SCHOOL-ROOM DECORATION.

School-rooms must be made more home-like, more attractive, and more beautiful. Some hints as to school-room decoration may be given as follows :

Tint the walls with soft, restful shades. Avoid wall-paper with figured designs. Tinted papers are best.

Picture moulding is inexpensive ; use it instead of unsightly nails and screws.

Place good-sized pictures on the walls or none at all. Avoid conglomerate masses of insignificant pictures.

Every school should have at least one good cast. Avoid perfectly white casts. Ivory or light