

**Is It True?**

*To the Editor of the Educational Review:*

DEAR DR. HAY: I want you to say through your paper that in the West trustees have almost lost faith in the honour and principle of teachers. Teachers, in coming West, show for the most part an entire absence of regard for a moral promise made to a teacher's agency or to trustees. It is indeed a hard thing to say; but it will do good. I have become almost skeptical as to the honesty of teachers, and have had to defend them to trustees with all sorts of reasons. If I am speaking strongly, it is not stronger than the facts; and I am sure you and your readers will forgive my straightforwardness.

It is largely due to the fact that coming into a new country, they are advised by even inspectors not to keep their moral engagements, but to look out for personal interests first, last, and all the time. For instance a good school is waiting a teacher fifteen miles from a town. An agency wires for that teacher, and the district secretary is told to meet her. She comes, but sees a better opening ere she reaches her destination, and the trustees who have opened the way for her entrance to western life go back open-handed. Sad, isn't it, that our teachers should do this in hundreds of cases?

W. B. SHAW.

Nelson, B. C., Oct. 15, 1909.

[Rumors of like character have come to our ears, but we hope they are greatly exaggerated. The REVIEW has found teachers, with but few exceptions, honourable in their dealings and ready to fulfil their engagements. We publish our correspondent's letter because he writes under his own name and because he is perfectly frank and kind in the matter.—EDITOR.]

Last year more than 13,000,000 pieces of mail matter were sent to the United States Dead-Letter Office, a large portion of which could not be delivered because of carelessness in writing addresses. This has led to the printing of some advice on a slip of paper which is placed in every letter that is returned. The advice reads: 1. Use ink in addressing letters or other mail matter. 2. Write plainly the name of the person addressed, street and number, post-office and state. 3. Place your name and address in the upper left hand corner of the envelope.

**Gelatin Printing Pad.**

There are many teachers who occasionally, if not frequently, desire to multiply a copy of an examination paper or a piece of music, a map or a drawing. The gelatin pad is an inexpensive and—for as many as forty or fifty copies—a satisfactory means of making the multiplication. In this connection the kindness of the editor permits me to fulfil a promise made to some of the students at the Rural Science School, Truro, namely, to give the recipe for such pad with instructions for making and using it.

Dissolve one-quarter pound of gelatin over night in one pint of water.

On the next day, or as soon as the solution is complete add one pint of glycerin.

Stir the mixture, and heat it in a saucepan to the boiling temperature.

Pour out in a flat pan 8 inches by 10 inches, or larger.

While cooling is proceeding, use a needle to prick the air bubbles that will appear. If left undisturbed for a few hours, the pad will be smooth and firm enough to use.

Write distinctly, on any kind of writing paper, with a coarse pen and suitable ink. "Hektograph" or "Transfer." Ordinary copying ink will not do.

Let the writing dry for from two to five minutes. Do not use blotting paper to dry it.

Very slightly dampen the surface of the pad with a squeezed-out sponge, and remove the surplus moisture with a soft cloth.

Now press the written side of the air-dried copy firmly and evenly on the pad, and allow it to remain from two to five minutes. As a rule, the longer time will give you a larger number of copies.

Proceed at once to print. A pliable paper takes the impression better than a stiff one. The hand, or a cloth, should be pressed over the back of each page when it is a-printing.

When the printing is finished, use a sponge squeezed out of tepid water to wash off the pad. The writing is thus only partially removed, but in time it sinks in and becomes, usually in about twenty-four hours, ready for another copy.

When the pad becomes rough or dirty, it is renewed by placing the pan on the hot stove and melting the gelatin again.

Instead of a pan filled to the depth of an inch or thereabout I have used framed slates. Two, three or four large slates may be filled to the depth of an eighth of an inch with even less material than is proposed for the pan. These will be found convenient should one wish to print several different papers in the same hour.

J. DEARNESS.