

MANUAL IN THE LOWER GRADES.

"How many boys of an ungraded school profitably employ their time while the girls are being instructed in sewing? Can boys of Grades III and IV be interested and helped by manual work? If so, how?"

These are types of questions so frequently asked that it has been thought that an article in which answers were attempted might be appreciated by those who are organizing manual in the lower grades.

I have found that the boys of Grade III take great delight in using their jack-knives says Sarah M. Hodgson in "Western School Journal." This might be thought dangerous, but in five years experience I have known of no accidents. If the boys are first taught that they must hold their work with one hand and always whittle away from this hand there is little danger of cutting themselves.

In this grade the boys will supply their own wood from soap boxes, etc., the material being from one quarter to one-eighth inch thick. Each boy should have a knife, oil stone, wood file (fine), and a sheet of No. 0 sandpaper. These he should keep in a box in his desk. It is convenient, if a piece of wood should be broken when almost completed, to have a tube of liquid glue.

The first work given should be very simple, such as the making of a paper knife. To start the class at this the teacher cuts out a paper pattern and tells the boys to place it on the wood lengthwise of the grain and outline with pencil. The boys soon learn that in working wood the grain must always be taken into consideration.

Now have them whittle down to the pencil mark. Now draw a line along the middle of the edge and bevel both sides to this line. Next scrape smooth with edge of knife, filing the rough places, and finish with sandpaper. If this model is not near enough perfect to satisfy the teacher, have them make another, but vary the shape of the handle to sustain interest.

Other simple models are: The Match Scratcher, which is a strip or square of wood with a piece of sandpaper glued on it. The wood may be whittled into any pleasing form. By this time the boys will have thought of many things they wish to

make, such as matchholders, dolls' furniture, etc. This may be made of straight strips and glued together.

GRADE IV.

In this grade boys should work in the manual room, and, if possible, draw their own plans under the direction of the teacher. Here too, the work must be very simple, and for the first two or three pieces, the whole class should do the same work, for example, a tea-pot stand, or a wisk holder. After these are finished let the boys choose their own work. If the teacher thinks their suggestions too difficult, advise something more simple. In this grade boys delight to make stables, stations, guns, kites, boats, etc. A good book on how to make real toys is entitled "Manual Training Toys for the Boy's Work-shop," by Harris W. Moore, price, postpaid, \$1.00 (The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Ill.), and another excellent book for country schools on manual work is "Problems in Farm Woodwork," price postpaid, \$1.00. Same address as above.

Boys who are allowed to choose their own subjects, never lose interest in their work, and never tire of searching for something new, which they often find in papers and books. Some of these models they will work on for weeks without losing interest.

One boy that I have in my mind made all the furniture for his own den, and passed through two grades while completing it. In this way boys learn to think and work for themselves, which educationally is much better than to have the whole class working on the same model. By this means the interest is kept up through the grades. Moreover, in this way the boys rapidly gain confidence and initiative so that they are able to attack and solve manual problems of considerable difficulty. One boy of my class made most of the furniture for the summer cottage.

Step by step the Board of Education, Guelph, Ont., is abolishing all final examinations. Most of the pupils are now promoted from class to class upon the results of their weekly examinations. The entrance examination test remains.

The Anchor line steamship Caledonia, of 9,223 tons gross, is believed to have been sunk. The Caledonia was the steamship which carried the 26th Battalion which left St. John on June 13th, 1915, for Liverpool.