

usually the upper limit of a feeble-minded child's arithmetic. But concrete work he can often do. Let him weigh, measure, number, to his heart's content, and procure or make simple apparatus for his own use. Think of simple industrial work for him. Drawing is a fine subject for children who can manage paper and crayon or slate and pencil. Give them pieces of cheap paper or wrapping paper. Let them cut out pictures and advertisements and use them. Many mentally defective children have good powers of imitation.

Music is an exceedingly important subject for mentally defective children. For some reason, which we can only guess at, they nearly all have some idea of music and most of them are very fond of it. To learn to play on some instrument is a great thing for such a child and lessons of this kind are very helpful.

Simple physical training as to step, gait, posture, reflex action, response to command, is important. Give the child every possible opportunity for this. Here again, as in nearly all other subjects, a senior pupil can give excellent lessons, with some supervision. Every effort should be made to help mentally defective pupils to join simple games. They may not play like the rest nor with children of their own size and age, but they can learn to play.

Occupational training, pasting, matching pictures, using a board with holes, in which pegs or other things can be fitted, sorting different things, stringing beads, arranging colours, following an outline with tracing paper, simple weaving, sewing, knitting, colouring and all forms of work with paper, may be utilized in teaching children. But do not allow them to keep the supplies. Keep the supplies for them in a special cupboard, and, if convenient, provide lessons for a month or more, or for a whole school term, with little or no repetition. This can be managed easily by using in the different seasons of the year the material that nature supplies, or using materials that the industries of the neighbourhood render available for using waste products. Sewing on cards, working in wood sometimes, string work, making mats and simple baskets, and, if the pupil progresses so far, manual work and weaving may be gradually introduced. With girls, domestic and home training is of the greatest value, and, indeed, it is very important to co-operate with the occupations of the parents and the work carried on in the home in every possible way.

There are three books which may be mentioned as of special value to teachers of very backward children, or children who appear to be mentally defective. These books are "The Boston Way", by the Special Class Teachers of Boston, published by the Rumford Press, Concord, N.H., and "An Introduction to Special School Work", by Marion F. Bridie, L.L.A., published by Edward Arnold, London, England, and "Simple