

volving blackboard is a great boon. One revolving on a vertical axis is preferable to one with a horizontal axis, for in the latter case you must do all your drawing upside down. A curtain arranged over an ordinary blackboard, so that it may be quickly thrown over or drawn away, will answer the same purpose, though more clumsily. This blackboard will serve many a turn. You have drawn for the smallest children a dozen objects,—a bird, a box, a square, a rhombus, a five-petaled flower, etc. The children are in position in their seats, but for a moment or two you attend to your other class, purposely allowing the attention of the present class to wander. Then you go to your blackboard, say "Ready!" (always the same signal, always the same word), and immediately after the signal unveil the drawings. Allow about fifteen seconds for inspection, then let your curtain fall and each in turn tell what he has seen.

Do you see the significance of this simple lesson repeated morning after morning? The child becomes accustomed to obeying your signal "Ready!" Later on when his judgment says "Ready!" the mind will respond, and the habit of attention will be formed, that habit without which no sustained thought, no scientific research, no logical conclusion is possible. The memory has also been called into requisition, for the child had to hold in his mind the objects he "saw" until it came to his turn to tell you of them.

Unveil your objects again and let the children count them with you (a little arithmetic, by the way). Choose one of the objects to talk about—or let them choose—perhaps your five-petaled flower; or have them notice the difference between the square and the rhombus. They may not be able to tell you the precise difference the first time nor the second, but they will gain a clearer insight into it with each repetition of the exercise.

Now, while you busy yourself with another class they may try to draw any of the figures on the board. Most of these drawings will convey to the uninitiated nothing, but a wavy irregular, scrawl; but to the child they have a world of meaning. He has created something. It is not like your creation on the blackboard, but it is his very own. And like the old Greeks, those childlike fathers of all true sculpture and design, to whom a quite ugly head could stand for their beautiful goddess Hera, or a fat man with a