

Gleanings from a Public School "Observation Note Book."

She was just a little mite, and became intensely interested as she listened to the story of that wonderful Mississippi, the great, rolling river, with its miles upon miles of majesty and beauty. When the teacher concluded the lesson with, "And we call the Mississippi the Father of Waters," the rapt, little face took on a thoughtful, puzzled air, and a childish voice piped out, "Why don't we call Mississippi the Mother of Waters? I should think the Father of Waters would be Mr. Sippi."

One of our Public School teachers having laboured for some time to impress on her class that simplicity and precision were admirable literary qualities, asked for a composition on "A Cow." Thereupon ensued the usual amount of lofty meditation directed at the ceiling, knitted brows and spasmodic scribblings. A final sigh of relief mingled with satisfaction announced to everybody within ear-shot that one boy, at least, had brought forth his first literary production. The young author was asked to read his essay. I transcribe it word for word. "A cow is an animal with four legs, one at each corner, and a tail to switch off the flies."

A well-known Public School History has in its account of King John's reign some reference to "first fruits and appeals." A boy in from the country, and evidently intent on encouraging "home industries," read from his history the startling announcement that John had transactions concerning "first fruits and apples."

The children were studying history, when Quiz, the embryo logician, asked the apparently irrelevant question—"What does espouse mean?"

"It means marry," answered the patient teacher, who had long since

given up attempting to follow the intricate workings of a child's mind.

Quiz was hardly yet sure of his conclusion. "Well then, did the Pope want to marry Elizabeth? The history says, 'The Pope tried to get her to espouse his cause.'"

A Good Beginning.

The first meeting of the Literary Society, under its new officers, was held in the Assembly Hall on the afternoon of Friday, January 19, with the President, Mr. Reid, in the chair. Mr. Stickle was appointed critic for the afternoon, and Mr. Courtice for the following week. Miss Baker was elected pianist for the term.

Before opening the regular programme the President made a few remarks, which, in vulgar parlance, would be called an inaugural address. He spoke of the hesitancy with which he assumed the duties of the office in which he had been placed, but, he felt reassured when he thought of how smooth his path had been made by the retiring President; while still greater courage was afforded by the thought that there was associated with him an excellent executive committee. He closed his address by making a stirring appeal for the hearty support of the whole body of students.

Mr. Willis followed with a piano solo, which he styled, "The Dirge of the Defeated Candidates." There seemed to be some doubt as to the candidates to whom this requiem was intended to apply.

Mr. D. McDougall, who during the past term had so ably filled the President's chair, was then asked to make a speech. He preferred that his utterances should be called "a few remarks." He congratulated the society on the selection of the present staff of officers. Speaking from his own experience he wished specially to mention the cordial support that had always been given himself and the executive committee in carrying on