

books the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect, and then it shall be the duty of school boards to adopt a series of books for five years. If the state board is unable to procure books below or at the prices stated, it shall advertise for manuscripts of the books needed and select such as are satisfactory and have them published at the expense of the state, and then sell the books to the local boards at cost. Publishers desiring to sell books in Kansas shall file proposals in the office of the state superintendent, and the board of education shall consider them and accept such as are satisfactory. Each bidder shall make affidavit that he belongs to no trust or combine.

Literature, Historical Notes, &c.

COMPOSITION.—REPRODUCTIONS.

BY CHAL. D. NASON.

At the period of life when imitation is a powerful factor in the education of a child, one of the very first principles of teaching composition is the setting of good examples. For this, it is necessary that the child hear nothing but good English spoken, and a good English style, and that he read only the best of the good English writers. In this way, if there be the germs of a fair writer in the child, they are brought out and developed.

Unconsciously, of course, much of the good from the reading comes, but it is necessary to study the writers carefully, if their greatest secrets are to be learned. This it is difficult to do, as we unwittingly slip over many important points, without at all appreciating that they are important. This comes from the well-known fact that the highest art conceals art. It is necessary, then, to study the masterpieces of English. Out of a desire to make scholarship closer and to bring to notice the fine points of a writer's style, reproductions of good pieces of English composition have been tried. These consist of studying or reading the points to be reproduced and then writing out the extracts as nearly in the style of the author as possible. In the lower grades this method shows pretty clearly the pupil's power of extracting knowledge from the printed page. For the students of the high school, or even of the college, this serves as a good exercise in the method of making literature,