

BUSY WORK.

Under this head each month there will be found exercises that may be used for silent seat work, class drills, and review work. Primary teachers are invited to contribute to this column any devices or plans they have found effective in keeping children profitably employed.

MORNING RECITATION — FOR PRIMARY CLASS.

I will be careful all the day
About the words these lips shall say.

These ears must never fail to hear
What's told me by my teacher dear.

These eyes upon my work must stay,
And 'round the room they must not stray.

These feet must softly walk ; and they
Beneath my desk must quiet stay.

These hands must busy be, today,
But with their work, and not with play.

And here, in school, the whole day through,
I'll do the best that I can do.

—Common School Education—

FINGERINGS.

[This is an exercise for the child's hands. Let the hands to begin with, be wide open, the fingers extended; then let every action be done. The "falling, falling," is to go lower and lower, very gently.]

Shut them ! Open ! Shut them ! Open !
Give a little clap.

Open ! Shut them ! Open ! Shut them !
Lay them in your lap.

Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them.
Up to little chin ;

Open wide the little mouthie,
Pop one finger in !

Shut them ! Open ! Shut them ! Open !
On to shoulder fly ;

Let them like a birdie flutter,
Flutter to the sky.

Falling, falling, falling, falling,
Nearly to the ground ;

Quickly raise, then, all the fingers,
Twist them round and round.

—Laugh and Learn.

HOW TO TEACH THE ROMAN NUMERALS FROM I TO XII.

For material, have a cardboard picture of a clock face without hands, and the hours plainly marked in Roman figures. Also a quantity of little slips of wood. A box of wooden toothpicks will do nicely.

First, make the numerals I to XII on the blackboard several times, and call especial attention to them. Then hold up your hand with the fingers extended, and let the children see that the fingers roughly represent I, II, III, IIII ; the little finger representing I, the next added to it forming II, the middle finger added to these forming III, the forefinger added to the other

three making IIII. Show them that the forefinger and thumb extended form the V. Impress upon the children the two ways of making four, and explain that the second one where I is placed before V means one one less than five ; also that I put after V means one more than V ; and in the same way explain VII and VIII. Show that IX is one less than ten ; XI is one more than ten, etc.

Give each child three dozen toothpicks, and let them make the numerals for themselves. Call upon them to make a IX, a V, a III, a IV, a VI, etc.

Let the children in turn take the pictured clock face and a toothpick. They should hold one end of the toothpick at the centre, with the finger for a pivot, then with the other hand move the stick around to show III, V, X, etc., as the teacher calls for them. Do not use or refer to a minute hand, for the calculations are too difficult for the little ones.

SPELL AND PRONOUNCE.

Words frequently confused in pronunciation and upon which special drill is recommended: Through, thorough ; thought, though ; tough, trough ; together, to gather ; quit, quite, quiet ; worm, warm ; how, now, know ; stop, stoop ; form, from ; there, where, here ; of, off ; for ; saw ; was ; drop, droop ; are, our ; loose, lose ; then, when ; that, what ; on, no ; felt, left.

MEMORY GEMS.

The world is ever as we take it,
And life, dear child, is what we make it.

Say well is good, but *Do* well is better.

Better to be alone than in bad company.

Obey thy parents ; keep thy word justly ; swear not.
—*Shakespeare*.

Difficulties strengthen the mind, as well as labor does the body.—*Seneca*.

Know how to listen, and you will profit even from those who talk badly.—*Plutarch*.

Keep a watch on your words, my darling,
For words are wonderful things ;
They are sweet, like the bees' fresh honey—
Like the bees, they have terrible stings.
They can bless like the glad warm sunshine
And brighten a lonely life ;
They can cut, in the strife of anger,
Like an open two-edged knife.

PRIMARY READING.

In addition to and along with the study of the reading lessons in the text-book, the best primary schools are