

smaller again; until at last it disappears, and cannot be seen again until the next month.

9. The Moon has no light of its own: it gets all its light from the Sun. It has always the same shape, and is nearly round. As however it is quite dark itself, we can at first only see as it were a little thread of the silvery bow: this is that part of it upon which the Sun shines.

10. Each night we see a little more of this silvery part; until at last the Moon is "at the full," and then we see what is called a "Full Moon."

11. Although the Sun and Moon appear to be about the same size in the sky, they are not so in reality. The Moon is only the one forty-ninth part of the size of the Earth; while the Sun (which is so far off that it looks quite small) is 500 times larger than the Earth, the Moon, and all the Stars which revolve around him put together.

12. The Moon looks much larger than any of the Stars, because it is much nearer to us; but many of the Stars are hundreds of times larger than the Moon. Boys know how large a kite or a balloon looks when it is on the ground, and how small it looks when high up in the air: it is just so with the size and appearance of the Sun, Moon, and Stars.

13. Now it will seem strange to our little reader to hear that the Sun does not rise at all (though it appears to do so); but that it is the turning round of the Earth which makes the Sun appear to rise. For as the Earth (which is like a great ball) is constantly spinning round like a top, each part turns toward the Sun as it moves. Thus that part of the Earth on which a boy or girl lives, begins every morning to approach the Sun. At noon we are as near the Sun as we can be during the day. We then begin to turn from it, and at midnight we are as far away as we can be during the night. Other places on the Earth, in their turn, get near and far from it also.

14. It will surprise little boys and girls to know that not only the Sun and the Earth, but the Moon and the Stars also, never leave the sky at all, though they are all constantly changing their positions there. During the daytime the light of the Sun is so much

brighter than the light of the Stars, that we cannot see their little twinkle. Many of the Stars are a great deal larger than this whole Earth; but as they are so very far off, they appear like mere specks, and we can only just see them. Others being nearer to us, are brighter than the rest.

15. The Earth turns round once in about 24 hours. An imaginary line through the centre of the Earth (on which it turns) is called its axis. The ends of this axis are called poles. Turning 12 hours toward the Sun makes it light; turning 12 hours from the Sun makes it dark. But as the north and south ends (or poles) of the Earth turn very slowly to or from the Sun, months (instead of hours, as with us) of light, twilight, darkness, and then twilight, light, &c., again, succeed each other there continually. As we come away from the north and south poles, the days and nights become more of an equal length. When the days are long, the nights are short; and when the nights are long, the days are short. While we have day, other places have night; and while we have night, other places have day.

EXAMINATION OR REVIEW LESSON No. I.

The Earth and its Appearance.

Q. Where does the light of day come from?

A. From the Sun, which appears to rise up in the sky every morning.

Q. In what direction does the Sun appear to travel in the sky?

A. From east to west, along the southern sky.

Q. When the Sun is out of sight at night, what do we see if the sky is clear?

A. The Stars, and also the Moon at her regular times of appearing.

Q. Does the Sun rise every morning, as he appears to do?

A. No: it is the Earth which turns round and brings him into view every morning.

Q. Where are the Stars during the day?

A. In the sky; but as the Sun shines so brightly, they cannot be seen.

Q. Whence do the Moon and Stars get their light?

A. The Moon gets her light from the Sun;