

“yes” or “no.” Wake up their minds by plain, pointed questions that require some mental effort on their part to answer them.

—A READER of the *Teachers' Institute* asks advice on the following points: In a large school, the boys have been in the habit of occasionally putting upon the floor the ends of that kind of matches which crack when lighted or stepped upon. They are not easily seen because they are so small and are placed there for the purpose of causing a disturbance in school-time. It has been practised both by large and small boys.

It is *very* difficult to detect the offenders as they do not hesitate at falsehoods if necessary to clear themselves and all stand by each other.

1. How can the guilty ones be found out “for sure”?
2. How should the large boys and (3) the small boys be dealt with?

To these questions, the *Institute* replied:

This evil must, as the doctors would say, be reached through a general toning up of the system. In schools whose pupils all take a pleasure in their studies and a pride in the order of the classroom, such disturbances do not occur, or are immediately frowned down without the teacher's intervention. But unless you are a born teacher you will never have such a school until you go to work with a will to make yourself a teacher—a real teacher we mean. To do this you will have to master more or less of the scientific side of teaching on the one hand; and on the other you will have to bring yourself into close and friendly relations with your pupils. A sympathetic insight into their thoughts and motives would soon divulge to you that successful teaching always appeals to the interest of the pupils. There are those who have orderly schools without doing any teaching worthy of the name, but you are evidently not successful as an autocrat. Let your first business be to enlist a majority of your pupils (including the ring-leaders of mischief) on the side of law and order for the sake of good work in the school. Then, if nothing offensive is done by you or your allies, the minority will come over. But you must be a good general.