

A certain number of recognized errors in the exercise may be counted a failure ; a less number, imperfect ; and no failures in leading features may constitute a perfect lesson.

The principal difficulty at first is drilling primary pupils on position, pencil holding, preparing for the exercise, and closing. About one-half the time during the first week may be profitably spent in drilling on these particulars.

Great care should be taken to explain all the errors for which they are to be held accountable beforehand, with ample black board illustrations of correct and incorrect formation.

On the last school day of each week the pupils should be called upon to prepare a line of each copy, word, and figure practised during the week, and from these copies and the merit marks, the monitors for the next week may be appointed.

As soon as pupils have been taught to form all the letters and combine them into words, short sentences should follow. The child may thus be taught to write before the pen and ink are introduced.

The objections made to the use of the pen and ink by small children are, that they are apt to blot and deface their books, and injure clothing and furniture. They should, however, be introduced as soon as the pupil has made sufficient progress to use them with any degree of proficiency.