

using the same kind of pen. A good pen costs no more than a bad one, and a teacher should be a better judge in making the selection than a pupil. If this is not done, some pupils will bring pens altogether too fine and sharp, and others large, coarse ones, designed only for writing on rough wrapping paper. Gillott's 292 will be found to possess the required qualities, and can be procured from any stationer. In cities and towns it is better for trustees to provide the pens.

New pens being more or less oily, should be wet and wiped dry before using, that the ink may flow from them freely.

Pen Holders.—Plain, light wooden holders, about six inches in length, are the best. Avoid those made of ivory, or any heavy material. They should be simple in construction, clasping the pen firmly, holding it immovable while writing, yet capable of being easily removed when worn out or broken. About one-third of a pen such as Gillott's 292, should be inserted in the holder.

Ink.—Black Ink is best for school purposes. It is of various shades and qualities, but only that which is sufficiently dark when first used to show the pupil how his work will appear, flows freely, and will not change its color or spread under the surface of the paper, should be used. The rapid evaporation of the watery part of ink soon causes it to thicken. It should then be diluted with clean soft water. Ink-wells should be covered when not in use, thoroughly cleaned as soon as any sediment