

**Mechanical or Industrial Busy Work.**

In an age when industrial education is so insisted upon, it is necessary to furnish this kind of busy work. In choosing the following I have tried to select work that would teach the child something.

1. Cutting and mounting pictures that can be used for stories. This will teach the boys and girls form, and will prepare them for paper-cutting. "The Ladies Home Journal" prints a page of pictures each month. The circus picture was good, and furnishes the theme for a most interesting story. A child may make a circus if he is supplied with a pencil, paper, scissors and a number of animal cookies. These paper animals will furnish a subject for work in oral composition. All children love animals and are anxious to learn how and where they live. In passing I might say that the page of the Journal entitled "Flossie Fisher's Funnies" may be mounted and used for picture stories in Grades 3 and 4.

The girls enjoy making the paper dolls, and will furnish dollie with many and varied styles of dresses. Here is a chance to teach harmony of colors in Grades 2 and 3.

Each child may make a picture book. An animal book will be much prized; a book of birds is a joy; little people of other lands with pictures showing dress, games, manner of living, furnish a book that will be of use in every grade until the child enters High School. An inexpensive book may be purchased for the mounting. The pictures are cut from magazines, farm catalogues, picture-books and post-cards. The girls are very fond of a flower book, and, by the way, this book can be used later in teaching copy drawing.

In all these books have the name of the picture printed underneath.

To make a border for the blackboard the pupils will trace and cut out from the pattern the figure desired. These are pasted on the board to form a border. Oak or maple leaves, fruits, all make pretty borders for the Autumn months; holly and candles for December, hearts for February, chickens for Easter, and butterflies for June. Do not put a border on the board in September and leave it there for two or three years. In a rural school all grades may help with this work. Grade 1 will trace, Grade 2 cut the pictures out, Grade 3 color them and Grade 4 will paste on the board. This will interest all the pupils, and the border will be much more appreciated.

Very pretty booklets for words mis-spelled may be made by the children. They are made to represent a butterfly, an apple, a maple leaf, etc., The covering may be ornamented by simple drawings by the older pupils; the younger ones will simply print the title and the name of the month. The leaves are made of any kind of paper that the child brings. At this time of year the pupils will bring in autumn leaves of all hues. Have these traced and colored. No two leaves are colored exactly alike, no pupils will color the same. Use these for borders or mount on appropriate cards.

Second Grade pupil will draw the birds, color them, and underneath draw in the nest, and print number of eggs laid.

Third year pupils are familiar with terms used in paper folding, then this will furnish work for them, because they will work from directions that have been printed on the board. The pupils of this grade in a rural school will make number cards for the primary classes.

(To Be Continued)

**THE EMPTY CRAYON BOX.**

A little thinking will enable a teacher to make some profitable use of the empty crayon box. By measurement the cubical contents may be computed and it may thus become a convenient measuring unit. Cutting off an end at the right length the dry quart, liquid quart and liter may be readily made. A sharp pen-knife and a few small brads are all that are needed in this. Ends and sides holding as they do by mortise and tenon, may be set to show various angles. Sides, ends, tops, bottoms can all be used in making models of various surface forms, rectangles, triangles, etc. The ingenious teacher will put some forms together for drawing models. Six-inch rulers, and decimeter rulers may be in the hands of each pupil by using materials from the crayon box. Even the physiology class may get an idea of the real capacity of the lungs, stomach, etc., by knowing the cubic inches represented by the crayon box.

The uses of the ordinary shade stick may be extended into the school-room. No teacher need be without a yard stick showing feet and inches. Also the meter with its divisions can readily be made from a shade stick. Nearly all arithmetics have the decimeter measure shown. A piece of paper cut the length of this measure and laid ten times on a shade stick gives the meter. It would be well if pupils could see these measuring units commonly in use and in comparison.—Western Teacher.