

A FORCE OF NATURE.—The teacher had up the class in primer of natural philosophy, and she had told the youngsters the story of Newton and the apple.

"Now," she inquired, "what makes the apple fall to the ground?"

Not a hand went up for some moments, and then a dirty one belonging to a small boy slowly arose.

"I know," he said.

"Well," smiled the teacher approvingly "tell the class."

"Cause it's rotten."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Practical Hints and Examination Papers.

METHOD OF TEACHING GRAMMAR.—The following hints and suggestions as to method of teaching grammar are given by Dr. Hinsdale :

1. Formal or technical grammar is an abstract metaphysical study, and the pupil should not enter upon it at too early an age. If he does, the time so spent is wholly or mainly lost, and future interest is impaired or altogether killed. Language exercises should form a regular approach to grammar.

2. The two main elements of the sentence may be taught in the sixth school year. That is, the child should be taught that every sentence has such elements, that they perform such and such functions, that there can be no sentences without them, that they form its framework or skeleton; and in addition he should be taught to point out the subject and the predicate as the two things that are essential to the expression of thought, is an important step in education.

3. In the sixth year also the larger features of the doctrine of modifiers may be taught and illustrated; also the principal parts of speech—the noun, the verb, the pronoun, the adjective, and the adverb, and the pupil be required to practise upon suitable examples. No book should be used, nothing need be said about grammar, and the work should be affiliated with the language lessons.

4. Formal grammar with a text-book should begin with the seventh year. Etymology should first be taken up, if the sentence has been previously taught as recommended; if no attention has been given to the sentence, grammatically considered, then the work should begin with analysis as before, but should proceed much more rapidly. Emphasize etymology in the seventh year, syntax in the eighth.

5. For a time parsing and analysis should conform to definite models. This will ensure regularity and thorough treatment.