

time in the past." A rule of thumb to enable children to give the principal parts of a verb readily is: Make three sentences with the pronoun I as subject, and containing the given verb and the words, to-day, yesterday and have, respectively, thus, "I go yesterday. I went yesterday. I have given."—*L. E. N.*

A VERY cheap and serviceable alcohol lamp for use in chemistry and mineralogy work may be made of an ordinary wide-mouthed bottle. It is only necessary to make a hole in the cork, insert a metal tube as a wick-holder—a cartridge shell with the bottom filed off will do—and when a wick and some methylated spirits have been procured, the lamp is ready for use.—*J. T.*

THE practice of keeping a scrap-book in which are pasted carefully selected clippings on a variety of interesting topics is one which must prove of the greatest use to the teacher, and the time spent over the work will be amply repaid by the advantages accruing. It is essential, however, to have each item readily accessible and this necessitates careful classification. A good way is to set aside certain parts of the book for different departments as, Historical, Geographical, etc., etc., and to arrange the items under these headings. In the index, these departments may be entered in alphabetical order and the separate clippings named under each. It is well to name these, not from the first word, which in most cases is not at all descriptive, but from the principal word in the title. Thus, "Boy's Own Portable Bookcase" is entered "Bookcase" under the B's, "Uses for Toads and Bats" is entered "Toads and Bats, Uses for," among the T's. It may even be necessary to change the title, thus, "The Hero of Corunna" might appear as "Moore, Sir J.," under the M's—*R. J. M.*

THE following words with meanings selected at random from the first thirty pages of the Fifth Royal Reader are illustrations of the unexplanatory definitions furnished by the prescribed readers: obtained, derived; brighten, illumine; enormous, prodigious; luxuriant, exuberant; necessity, urgency; tangled, intricate. In every case the word that is supposed to be explanatory is more difficult and less within the range of knowledge of the average Grade VII. pupil than the word it assumes to explain. If the child is puzzled over tangled and luxuriant, will intricate