

PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY.

Years ago, as many teachers remember, such subjects as botany, zoology, and chemistry were taught from the written description in the textbook, but we have progressed in such a degree that any one attempting to teach now, other than objectively, would be considered on the verge of lunacy. Geography was taught in the same manner, but each succeeding year places it, too, more and more on an objective basis. We have advanced to a stage where objective teaching of every subject seems imperative. Verbal descriptions are inadequate, for, no matter how graphically you describe a place or thing, each listener is forming a different mental image, and no imagination, however clear, can create a mental picture at all correct, unless there is already in the mind suitable experience gained from actual observation of the thing described or from pictures of the object. So little do business men depend on verbal descriptions that, if they wish to construct a building, before entering into a contract for the same, they must see on paper a complete picture, that there may be no misunderstanding. They realize "that a greater amount of information and a more lasting impression is gained from a single picture than from pages of description." We as teachers are slowly adopting business methods. We are beginning to realize the importance of securing good mental images.

We know the best means of doing this is to visit the object itself; but since we can not charter an airship and travel with our little flocks from pole to pole, nor can we import mountain peaks, seas, or rivers at our convenience, the next best means is to model them on the sand table, and at the same time present the best pictures on the subject that can be secured. Dr. Redway says that in the teaching of geography climate is fundamental and the first topic that should be considered, as its influence has everything to do with the food, shelter, and clothing of the inhabitants of the earth. To illustrate the power of this influence, I know of nothing better than the story written by Jane Andrews of the "Seven Little Sisters," which should be in the hands of every primary teacher. It is easily illustrated and dramatized and creates a desire for the further study of geography in children of every size.—Nebraska Teacher.

For Opening Exercises.

It often becomes a task to the primary teacher to find material for opening exercises. Here are two exercises which may be found very helpful. The little poem "Who Made All Things?" copied below, can be used with good results when the question is asked by the teacher and the pupils give the answer in concert.

Who made the sky so bright and blue,
Who made the fields so green,
Who made the flowers that smell so sweet
In pretty colors seen?

All.

'Twas God our Father and our King;
Oh, let us all His praises sing.

Who made the birds to fly so high,
And taught them how to sing,
Who made the pretty butterfly
And painted her bright wing?

All.

'Twas God our Father and our King;
Oh, let us all His praises sing.

Who made the sun to shine so,
And gladden all we see;
Which comes to give us light and heat,
That happy we may be?

All.

'Twas God our Father and our King;
Oh, let us all His praises sing.

Who made the silver moon so high,
The dark, dark night to cheer,
The stars that twinkle in the sky,
And shine so bright and clear?

All.

'Twas God our Father and our King;
Oh, let us all His praises sing.

Who made the rocks, the hills, the trees,
The mountains and the vales,
The flocks, the herds, the cooling breeze,
The streams that never fail?

All.

'Twas God our Father and our King;
Oh, let us all His praises sing.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's Morning Poem is helpful also, for opening exercises. The children delight to call it "The Thank You Poem," and they like to repeat it in the morning, all standing with bowed heads, and reciting in concert.

For this new morning with its light;
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food and love and friends
For everything Thy goodness sends
We thank Thee, Heavenly Father.