

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

On pages 80 to 83 of the April JOURNAL some information respecting the work of this League was given, with communications from the Hon. Secretary and Major-General Campbell Hardy. This information is further supplemented below, with the addresses of those who can give detailed information by circulars or letter.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs Ord Marshall, 11 Dartmouth St., Victoria St., S. W., London, wrote on the 1st of July as follows:—

I have to thank you most cordially for your kind letter. We have already sent you our general papers, both as to the individual correspondence between members of the league and the further matter of school linking.

We feel both with schools and members that if in this mutual correspondence the work is made to tally it at once becomes more interesting and of greater educational value.

The important thing to remember we felt was to put no extra work on the schools, but rather merely to organize the exchange of what would in any case be done.

Many schools keep Nature Calendars. Our committee then suggest that a school should be linked to Great Britain, to South Africa, to Australia, or any place chosen, and this Nature Calendar be exchanged, the school thus drawing up for itself not only nature conditions in its own land, but those in any part of the Empire that it desires.

In the same way with Vacation Diaries. Many of our schools keep these, and it is interesting for a child to draw up the conditions of the long vacation throughout the Empire.

As regards Paragraph 4, Essays on Common Trees; 5, Essays on Common Buds; 9, Collections: We propose in the next issue of this scheme to put alternative subjects, so that more choice is left to schools.

You will of course see these are only a set of suggestions. Any schools linked can make any mutual arrangement they desire, and of course any advice you may be good enough to give us from time to time shall receive our immediate attention.

I enclose Proof copies of this Nature Study Scheme:

It is No. 1 of a set of Schemes, on any one of which a school wishful to be linked may make its exchanges.

No. 2 of this set I hope shortly to send you. Each Scheme is drawn up by a sub-committee composed entirely of experts on the particular subject. No. 2 is a History Scheme, by which we hope your schools linked to our Historical Societies, both in and out of schools may draw from our historical places much information—essays on historical buildings, towns, and portions of country—drawings of these, photographs and even collections for their museums, giving us in return much information of your conditions.

This paper is in the hands of Mr. Herbert Hall, secretary to the Royal Historical Society and also of the Record office. It will, before being sent out to you be laid before the Council of the Royal Historical Society, and I hope some of our most eminent men will serve on the committee. Professors W. K. F. Petrie, D. C. L., and Professor E. A. Gardner have already promised their services for the purpose.

Arrangements for No. 3, a geography paper, are now being made. We are doing the work through a set of Schemes, because we find that even in one school sometimes, 2 subjects are asked for. One school is now desirous of linking its upper school for History. The lower school for Nature Study.

With this set of different papers we hope we may provide for all. Now that these Schemes are becoming more developed you will possibly give us your criticism, and any advice you may be good enough to give us as to what arrangements you would suggest as the best for carrying out the linking with the least confusion. Much must be done in London, I think, for your schools ask equally for Great Britain and Australia as far as we have yet seen. Ours, so far, have asked principally for Canada.

The Nature Study Scheme can be sent out at once to those interested.

The following are two of the circulars referred to with the corresponding blanks for application. This publication will, it is hoped, put every teacher or pupil desiring to take advantage of this valuable scheme of instruction, in communication with the executive officers of the League, from whom can be obtained the circulars containing the terms of membership, the constitution and a sketch of the various advantages to be obtained from coöperation—and blank forms for application:—