

Stencils for the Blackboard in May

Grace E. Cail, Coal Branch, N. B.

ONE OF the many features which makes a school room attractive is the use of blackboard stencils in bright and harmonizing colors. Children delight in seeing pretty borders on the boards. Their expressions of pleasure, when discussing a new design, surely make it worth while to the teacher who has spent a few minutes in preparing some stencil suited to that particular month or season.

Many teachers do not make use of this opportunity to add attractiveness to their rooms, because they do not have stencils on hand to use. Some easy and pretty designs may be made by any teacher who can draw. What could be more suitable for a May border than one composed of the Coats-of-Arms of the different Provinces of the Dominion? These may be made quite easily by drawing the "shield-shaped" outline on drawing paper or any heavy paper (wrapping paper will do.) The same outline may be transferred to other paper by using carbon paper, and the design drawn in for each Province. These lines may then be perforated by using an unthreaded sewing-machine for the longer lines, the shorter lines and difficult curves may be pricked with a pin or point of a sharp compass.

These are transferred to the board by holding the paper in place and tapping it gently with an eraser filled with chalk dust. This leaves the design in little white dots on the board. These are then traced in with colored crayons and filled in with the appropriate colors. The shield I use, measures four inches at the greatest width and six inches at the greatest length. This size seems best suited for ordinary use and will not take up too much space on the black-boards. The Coats-of-Arms of each of the other chief possessions of the British Empire may be used, as well as those of the Provinces and the Dominion. These stencils may be used for borders by placing them in line equidistant from each other. Those of the Provinces may be arranged in a circle around the Dominion Coat-of-Arms, making a pretty design and may be used effectively for a lesson on Empire Day.

Any teacher who may be fortunate enough to have a copy of the "Atlas of Canada" published about 1916 can copy the correct colors for the Canadian Coats-of-Arms. While those of the British Isles and the Empire may be found in the booklet, "A Help to Victory on Empire Day."

Flags of the Allied Countries in the late War make a pretty border. The outline of the flag looks best if drawn with curved lines as if floating in the breeze. These stencils are made three inches by six inches. A large illustrated dictionary will usually show the flags of the countries of the world and from this the design and colors may be copied.

Such blackboard decorations may be prepared by the older pupils who enjoy the work and appreciate the responsibility. Stencils of various designs

may be purchased from the George Hendry Company, Toronto. Let us try to make our school-rooms bright and attractive by decorating our blackboards with pretty borders, for the children will enjoy the hours spent in school much more and will work better in pleasant surroundings.

ELEMENTARY READING

(Continued from page 293)

the short sound of a—its long sound—the short sound of e—its long sound—etc. and the syllabic drill kept up daily. In these grades care must be taken that the diacritical marks used are the same as those used in the dictionary. To read intelligently the pupil must not only have mastered the pronunciation of the words, but he must know their meanings. Punctuation marks also help in good reading. A period marks the end of a thought. A comma indicates a slight change, a phrase or a clause may be enclosed in commas, and may need to be read softer, slower, or faster because of this. A question mark should be heeded.

An animal may be trained by being made to repeat certain actions which of themselves they would be incapable of doing. But they can do no more. The education of children accomplishes much more than this. It gives them the power to think and to intelligently understand what they read. Teaching which does not accomplish this is mere training.

Emerson has said—"Teaching is the conscious act of the trained spirit of a teacher influencing the less trained spirit of the pupil to the end that the pupil may come into possession of all the knowledge, culture and training he is capable of receiving." And thus becoming a healthy, happy useful member of the community.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

(Continued from page 285)

personal hygiene and proper food. Excellent work is being done by the co-operation of the Provincial Board of Education and the Junior Red Cross in Saskatchewan. The Board of Education has promised to give the matter their consideration.

A plan to replace the present Teachers' Pension law was presented to the Premier. It was intimated that if statistics giving the number of teachers, their present salaries, and tenure of office, together with a report of the workings of Teachers' pensions in other Provinces were presented, the Government would consider the scheme at the next session.

A most entertaining play, calling for simple costuming and staging, will appear in the June number if 100 of our subscribers who are in arrears pay up before May 21st. Moncton teachers who have read the play want to use it for School Closing.