

school children are compelled to present finished productions on such subjects as contentment, jealousy, and growing old gracefully, copied compositions of the oldest son or daughter are often made to serve for all the younger boys and girls of the family.

But how shall the ammunition wherewith to load the mental gun be obtained? Certainly by the observation of the pupil himself, and the testimony of other persons. In maturer years the results of reflection and reasoning will supplement the facts observed.

The writer of this once required compositions from a class unaccustomed to write them. Request after request came, even from pitying mothers, for their children to be excused "this time," so the announcement was made that all would be excused "this time," from composition

who would hand in a written excuse stating the reasons why they wished to be excused. As may be supposed the writers of *excuses* were surprised when they found themselves credited with *compositions*. They found that they could write about what they could talk about.

To stimulate a habit of *observing* I would suggest that pupils be asked to notice and then write down, as many points of *resemblance* or of *difference* as they can see, or recollect having seen, or gain from conversation with others, or read in books, between different animals.

As a sample of what some have done and others may do, let us note some of the differences between horses and oxen, or more properly between *equine* and *bovine* animals.

To make the contrast more manifest put the points of difference as follows :

EQUINE.

Have one toe.
Never with horns.
Have a flowing mane.
Pawing with the fore feet denotes hunger.
Tail covered with long coarse hair.
Seize grass with their lips and convey to their teeth in feeding.
Lips very movable.
Have upper and lower front teeth.
Lie down hind parts first.
Rise on fore legs first.
Mouth long. Space between front and back teeth.
One stomach to hold about three gallons.
Do not chew the cud.
Intestines large—60 feet long.
Have no gall bladder.
Cannot vomit.
Never breathe through the mouth.
Never open the mouth from exhaustion, but only to eat or bite.
Defence by kicking.
Neigh or whinney.
Perspire easily.
No dew lap.
Hard oval warts inside hind legs.

BOVINE.

Have two toes.
Usually with horns.
Without a mane.
Pawing with fore feet denotes anger.
Long hair in a tuft at end of tail.
Encircle food with the tongue and convey to mouth.
Lips slightly movable.
Have no upper incisor teeth.
Lie down fore parts first.
Rise on hind legs first.
Shorter mouth. No vacant space between incisor and molar teeth.
Four stomachs. (Tripe in one of them.)
Always chew the cud.
Intestines small—120 feet long.
Have gall bladder.
Can vomit.
Can breathe through the mouth.
Mouth usually open when wearied.
Defence by hooking.
Bellow or moo.
Do not perspire easily, if ever.
Have dew lap.
No warts inside hind legs.