

THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

A Lesson on Telegrams.

The purpose is to train children in picking out the essential parts of a paragraph. To train them to express a message in a few words. To make them familiar with a telegram blank.

Have regular blanks for the children to examine. Let them tell why people send telegrams, and give instances when they might be sent. Then spend a few minutes on the manner of sending. If any of the boys are interested in electricity, they probably will be able to furnish some information. Find out what they know about the new system of wireless telegraphing and its advantages. Tell them to find out before the next lesson where the nearest telegraph station is.

Explain that a message costs in proportion to the distance it is sent; that ten words are allowed for a given rate, then every additional word costs extra. Therefore the need of learning to condense a message without leaving out any essential point. Have them notice that the lines on the blank are divided into five equal parts, to enable the agent to see at a glance how many words the message contains.

They can tell you that the line in the upper right-hand corner is for the date; that the line below is for the name and address of the one to whom the message is being sent; and that the last line is for the signature of the sender.

Then give the conditions under which a telegram might be sent, and see which pupil can express it most clearly, with the least number of words. Plenty of practice along this line will probably be necessary. Finally let them rule paper like the regular blank and fill it in with an imaginary message.

Here are three that might be given them:

Write a telegram to your mother, telling her that your brother, in getting off an electric car, was knocked down and run over by an automobile. That he is now at City Hospital in Boston, and ask her to come at once.

Suppose you go from your home to New York City during your Christmas vacation to visit a cousin. Telegraph home that you reached there safely and that your uncle met you at the train.

Send a telegram to your grandfather, stating that your family will arrive two hours earlier than expected the next day, which is Thanksgiving Day. Ask him to meet you at the station with his team.

I have known adults who had not the slightest idea of how to send a telegram. One or two lessons a year of this kind in every grade above the fifth will keep them so familiar with the form that they would know what to do in case they ever had to send one.—*Popular Educator*.

Mr. Godfrey Langlois, M. P. P., in giving his evidence recently at Quebec before the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, thought that teachers' diplomas ought to be awarded only after the recipient had successfully completed a course in the normal school. In regard to female teachers, Mr. Langlois thought many of them only took up the profession temporarily and for the purpose of social or material advantages. "Many young men, especially in country places," he said, "prefer school teachers, so it happens that women often take to teaching merely for a good opportunity of getting a husband."

Asia means morning or east; Europe, evening or west; Australia means lying to or in the south; hence we may consider that these names mean eastern land, western land and southern land. The origin of the word Africa is uncertain. Some conjecture that it is a Semitic word meaning "land of wanderers." America is named from Amerigo Vespucci, who discovered a portion of the continent in 1499.

Many ludicrous mistakes are made by foreigners in grasping the meaning of some of our common English expressions. A young German attending a Western State university translated "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak," into "The ghost is willing, but the meat is not able." And a Filipino youth fairly set the class in an uproar by the statement that "Out of sight, out of mind," meant "The invisible is insane."

I am forwarding my annual remittance to your valuable paper, the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW. The REVIEW contains so much that is interesting and instructive, and so many valuable suggestions on teaching that I would be at a loss without it. The children, too, look eagerly for it and are always delighted with the beautiful supplements.

A. M. F.