

conscious of his ability to do something, and do it well.

Two dialectic peculiarities, which the teachers apparently seemed unable to cope with, were the dropping of the *h*'s and the substitution of the long *i* sound for the long *a*, to which reference was made before.

The drawing books were next shown. They were models of neatness. The drawing in this standard was copying from the flat. In more advanced standards we were shown some excellent work in drawing from objects.

Probably in no other subject of elementary instruction in English schools has there been such a wonderful change in recent years as in drawing, and the results seen throughout the different grades in this school showed the increased attention paid to it, and what can be accomplished by it in developing the many sides of a child's intelligence.

A simultaneous recitation was given—a poem on the Robin—with considerable unction, but it was expressive. In answer to my question, how many have seen a robin? about half a dozen raised their hands. Their description of it was meagre—it had a red breast and a cheery song. Few boys in that room had seen a cow. The headmaster said that forty boys and forty girls out of the whole school would be taken to the country for their summer vacation this year, their expenses paid for out of the summer vacation fund, a fund provided by benevolent people for this purpose.

There is a boot fund, a coat fund, and similar provisions for needy scholars in this and other large schools in London. Often clothing is collected from the well-to-do scholars and given to the poorer ones to enable them to attend school.

The teacher of standard two receives an annual salary of £125. Next year he would get £150. The female teacher of the same grade receives £90, the lowest salary to a certificated teacher at first and increasing by £4 each year. The male teachers receive a larger increase, depending on their ability and aptitude for the work.

(Continued next month.)

"Do you know," said a Sunday-school teacher, addressing a new pupil in the infant class, "that you have a soul?" "Course I do," replied the little fellow, placing his hand over his heart, "I can feel it tick."—*Moberly, Mo., Monitor.*

Days of Note in July and August.

BY ELEANOR ROBINSON.

July, the seventh month in our calendar, received its name from the Romans, in honour of Julius Cæsar, who was born in this month. By the Anglo-Saxons, the month was called "Mead Month," from the meadows being then in bloom.

In July occur both our own national birthday and that of our neighbours in the United States.

On the 15th of July St. Swithin is remembered, chiefly on account of the popular superstition attached to his day. St. Swithin, or Swithun, was made Bishop of Winchester in 838, and was distinguished for great piety, which showed itself in works of charity, zeal for his bishopric, and the simplicity and humility of his life. He died on July 2nd, 862, and at his own request was buried, not within the cathedral, but in a mean place on the north side of it, where men might walk over his grave, and the drippings from the eaves fall upon it. In the next century it was considered a scandal that so good and great a man should have so poor a resting place, and on the 15th of July his body was removed and placed in a rich shrine within the church. It is said that a most violent rain began to fall on the day appointed for the ceremony, and continued for thirty-nine days, and this legend has been supposed to account for the belief that St. Swithin influenced the weather at this season, a belief expressed in the following lines:

"St. Swithin's Day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St. Swithin's Day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair."

Modern writers, however, tell us that this superstition is found existing long before the invention of the legend, and it is thought to be older even than the saint himself. The most probable explanation is that such a belief prevailed in heathen times concerning some day falling at this season, and that, as so often happened with pagan customs and beliefs, it was transferred to the protection of a holy day of the church. This seems the more likely, because in France the same superstition attaches itself to St. Médard's Day, the 8th of June, and to the 19th day of the same month, the festival of St. Gervais and St. Protais.

"Si 'il pleut le jour de St. Médard,
Il pleut quarante jours plus tard;
Si 'il pleut le jour de St. Gervais et St. Protais,
Il pleut quarante jours après."

There is a pretty saying in some parts of Eng-