

Arbitrary English Language.

Students taking fun at some of the peculiarities of the English language are very common, but we do not think it is to have seen one that presents the variety of English plurals so well as the following. It might be used as an exercise for the teacher to explain to his pupils some of these forms, which are shown up so wittily.

We begin with box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
For one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese.
Yet the plural of a mouse should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse, or a whole nest of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hiee.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why should not the plural of pan be called pen?
For a cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But a bow, if repeated, is never called bine.
And the plural of vow is vows, never vine.
If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why should not the plural of booth be called beeth?
If the singular is this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss ever be nicknamed keese?
For one may be that and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose;
And the plural of cat is cats, and not cose.
We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,
But though we may say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him,
But imagine the feminine she, this, and shim.
So the English, I think you all will agree,
Is the greatest language you ever did see.

Commonwealth.

S. B. Normal School Closing.

INDUSTRIAL DRAWING.

Commonwealth School and Class I. Time, 1 hour.

NOTE. Knowledge, design and execution will be valued in your answer. To obtain full credit for the latter, drawings must be not less than four inches in width. Freckled work required throughout, except in No. 3.

1. Draw from memory an example of the Greek Amphion, or the Egyptian Lotus form; or, draw an original design for an arrangement of cordate forms from a centre.
2. Draw a watch, with the face exposed to view and seen obliquely; or, draw the group of objects placed before you, with due attention to shading and perspective.
3. Make a working drawing of a plain Latin Cross with square beams; or, make a simple design for inlaid work in two colors, on a flat surface, using straight line forms and indicating the colors by half-tint.
4. What is meant by conventionalized forms? What regular objects are most frequently conventionalized for ornament.

GEOMETRY.

Class I.

Time, 1 hr. 15 min.

1. Find the number of degrees in the angle of a regular pentagon, and prove the principle by which the question is worked.
2. The lines joining the corresponding ends of two equal and parallel straight lines are themselves equal and parallel.
3. The square on the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle is equal the sum of the squares on the other two sides.
4. What is the square on the side opposite the obtuse angle of an obtuse angled triangle equal to? In any triangle what is the square on the side opposite an acute angle equal to? Prove the former case.
5. Describe a circle touching one side of a triangle and the produced parts of the other two.
6. Prove that the area of a triangle is equal to the semiperimeter multiplied by the radius of the inscribed circle.
7. If three lines are in continued proportion the first will be to the third as any rectilineal figure on the first is to a similar rectilineal figure on the second, what principles are required in proof of this?
8. In one of the propositions in the sixth book we have three instances of a mean proportional between two lines. Explain and give reasons.

CHEMISTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

Class I.

Time, 1 hr. 15 min.

NOTE. Six questions make a full paper.

1. What name is common to salts of Hydrochloric acid? Mention one of these salts by means of which Ammonia, and two others by means of which Muratic acid may be obtained. Write and account for the reactions.
2. Mention four gases, each of which has a strong smell. Classify them chemically, and write reactions by which they may be obtained.
3. (a) Write the graphic formulae for one salt of each of the following acids: Sulphuric, Nitric, Carbonic and Chloric.
(b) Give the base of each of these salts.
4. Formulate and name four salts which contain CO_2 and write as many reactions as you can, by which they may be got to yield this gas.
5. How may metallic copper be separated from copper sulphate? Write and account for the reaction.
6. Name and formulate at least four inorganic compounds which enter into the composition of soils, and tell how they may be distinguished.
7. State the means and conditions necessary to the formation of starch by plants. Write a reaction which indicates approximately the process.

Boston has the first and only kindergarten settlement in the world. It is a memorial to Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, the most eminent friend that Froebel has ever had in America, and is located at 156 Chambers street, in a section of the city where play grounds are undreamed of by the children. *New England Journal of Education.*