

SOME DECEMBER SUGGESTIONS.

Now that the beginning children have learned several words in their reading work, it is necessary for them to review these almost daily, in order to learn to call them quickly. Different ways of conducting this word drill are necessary to keep it from becoming monotonous, and here are a few ways that help give variety to this kind of work. If the words are on the board let some children give them all, beginning at the first word; let others give all beginning at the last word; let one child give three or four, the next three or four, and so on; have them begin with a certain word; one may find the words the teacher or pupils ask him to find; two children may have pointers and see who can find a given word first; children may close their eyes, the teacher erases a word, then the children are to discover which word is gone; while their eyes are closed or backs turned the teacher may write a word, and they tell what it is as soon as they turn; or she may write it while they watch, then erase immediately, and have them tell. Sometimes she may let them ask to erase words on the board; these may be a regular list of words or they may be a reading lesson, and they may say, "Please may I erase flower?" This helps fix a good form for their use in asking other privileges. Or the teacher or pupils may ask a child to erase a certain word.—*Exchange.*

MEANING OF HALF-MAST

You have noticed that whenever a prominent person dies, the flags on public buildings are hoisted only half way up. This is called "half-mast." Did you ever stop to think what connection there could be between a flag that was not properly hoisted and the death of a great man? Ever since flags were used in war, it has been the custom to have the flag of the superior or conquering nation above that of the inferior or vanquished. When an army found itself hopelessly beaten it hauled its flag down far enough for the flag of the victors to be placed above it on the pole. This was a token, not only of submission, but of respect. In those days when a famous soldier died, flags were lowered out of respect to his memory. The custom long ago passed from purely military usage to public life of all kinds, the flag flying at half-mast being a sign that the dead man was worthy of universal respect. The space left above it is for the flag of the great conqueror of all — the Angel of Death.—*Selected.*

WHAT WE LEARN FROM EXAMINATION PAPERS.

1. The common house-fly is an injurious insect. To get rid of the fly, kill it.
2. We eat to fill us up. The lining of the stomach keeps it warm.
3. Augustine went to England in 596 to chastise the people.
4. Cartier went back to France and left us a fatal account of all he saw.
5. Ypres is a poisonous gas first used in the Great European War.
6. Many of the passengers of the Lusitania received unanimous letters before sailing.
7. Of all the books I have read, I like "Jessica's Prayer" the best because it has big print.
8. William Wallace sailed into Minas Basin and forced between seven and eight thousand persons on board his boat, because they wouldn't take the oath of elegance.
9. O is an indigestion.
10. Scott read many of the old writers and of the old ballots, so that he soon became a member of the bar.
11. Alfred the Great was so badly defeated by the Danes that he flew in the skies (fled in disguise).

BLACKBOARD ARITHMETIC.

"Do a great deal of blackboard work in arithmetic," says the supervisor. And blackboard space is limited.

While teaching multiplication by two and three figures, I found the following plan very good.

Sixteen children were sent to the blackboard, and worked an example such as this:

$$\begin{array}{r} 257 \\ \times 928 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The children at their seats proved the example in this way:

$$\begin{array}{r} 928 \\ \times 257 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Sometimes half the children were sent to the board — the class numbered twenty-eight — and each worked a different example. Each child at his seat proved his partner's example. When work was finished, partners changed places, and did another example.—*Primary Education.*