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Editorial Notes.

OUR best thanks are due, and are heartily given, to those teachers who have kindly complied with our request for correspondence in regard to practical work. The result is, as will, we are sure, be gratefully recognized, several excellent papers, especially in the department for second and third grades, in this number. We shall be glad to hear from all these writers again, and hope that many others will follow their good examples.

"J.C.H." sends the following request: "Will you kindly tell me, through your journal, the direction which you think the bird in 'The Waterfowl' (Third Reader) is going? 'Far through their rosy depths dost thou pursue thy solitary way' makes me think it is going west, while other parts of the poem give me the idea it is going south. Any information you could give me on the habits of the waterfowl I should be pleased to get." As our English department is crowded out this week we give the question here, and should be glad to receive postal-card or other answers for our correspondent.

WE can hardly impress too strongly upon the minds of teachers of both sexes the importance of identifying themselves, so far as school duties will permit, with the world outside their schools. We fancy that some progress is being made in the direction indicated by Canadian teachers of every grade. There is no reason, save the fact that his time must be regularly devoted during teaching hours to professional duties, why the teacher should not be an active and useful member of the community, and ready for every good work. He should be, no less than the member of any other class or profession, a man of public spirit, saying and feeling with the Roman philosopher, "I am a man, and nothing which affects humanity do I deem foreign to my sympathies." *Mutatis mutandis*, the same may be said of lady teachers.

"I HAVE taught my note-book through, and do not know what to do next," said a

teacher to a superintendent who was visiting the school. An exchange, mentioning the incident, drew a picture, which, it said, was taken from real life, of a teacher standing before the class day after day, going through her note-book, and giving lesson after lesson just as they had been given in the Normal School in which she was trained, imitating, as well as she could, the very looks and gestures of her favorite teacher. We should be sorry to believe there are any amongst our readers who can make no better use of methods given them as illustrations. Sample methods and lessons are excellent as illustrations, but when used as models for exact imitation they become snares and clogs. Every teacher worthy the vocation will have his or her own methods, and will never let them become stereotyped.

WAUKEGAN, Ill., is trying an educational experiment in connection with her Public Schools which is, to say the least, worth thinking about. It is the maintenance of an "ungraded department" in connection with the graded schools. It is not, as are the ungraded departments in some other American cities, intended for pupils who are, for various reasons, unable to maintain their places in the grades—though this itself is a much-needed supplement to the regular departments—but is adapted to the wants of the pupils who need special training in mathematics, bookkeeping, etc., for the workshop or the farm, and whose circumstances preclude them from remaining in school long enough to get this training in regular course. It is, undoubtedly, a serious defect in our own system that, in consequence of the rigid grading and fixed programme, a great many short-time pupils fail to get the courses which would do the most for them.

IN the opinion of some the Kindergarten is still on trial on this continent. If that be so, the doubts of sceptics may well be weakened, and the faith of enthusiasts confirmed, by certain statistics with reference to the moral results of the system as operated in San Francisco. The Public School system of that

city does not include the kindergartens, but this defect is supplied, to a considerable extent, by the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association, which raises \$30,000 a year for the support of the kindergartens it has established. The teachers of the city schools affirm, it is reported, that the character of the children who now enter the schools is far above that of those of former years. It is further stated that the careers of the first 9,000 children who received kindergarten training in these schools have been carefully followed, and that not one of them has been arrested. We are sorry that the source from which we quote does not give the dates necessary to enable us to estimate the present ages of these children. It is significantly and most suggestively added that the Golden Gate Association has given special attention to work among the mothers.

A FEW days ago Mr. Bryan, the candidate of the "free-silver" Democrats for the Presidency of the United States, attempted to deliver an open-air speech in New Haven, on a green near the Yale University buildings. As soon as Mr. Bryan took the stand, the students, to the number of about five hundred, commenced shouting for McKinley, and kept up their deafening shouts and college cries so persistently that Mr. Bryan utterly failed to get a hearing, and was obliged to give up the attempt. It would be unfair, we presume, to hold either the institution, or its students as a whole, responsible for this disgraceful rowdyism, which was probably the act of a minority composed of the worst elements in the university. Otherwise we should be disposed to wonder what kind of training the students in that famous and venerable seat of learning can receive, if it permits them not only to refuse to listen to the leading exponent of the other side of a great question, but to deny to an orator of acknowledged ability and unblemished reputation the right of free speech, which should be the pride of every intelligent citizen, and to trample upon the rights of the many who, no doubt, wished to hear him. "Always Hear the Other Side" would be a good motto to put in large letters upon the wall of every schoolroom.