

the sake of the weaker members of our classes we must make sure that not only the bright or average pupils, but also the weaker ones have grasped the lesson taught. Then again every lesson must contain something new. A child which has been absent but half a day must feel and be made to feel that it has missed something, that its class mates, who

have been regular in attendance, know more than it does. In other words, we must do something and do it well.

In closing, let me remark that my experience has convinced me that the last point mentioned is without doubt the most important one in promoting regular attendance at school.

### CARETAKING OF RURAL SCHOOLS.

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This subject has been considered by many as of minor importance, but when carefully studied it is readily found that such is not the case. To educate the rising generation to love order and cleanliness must surely be important.

The rural school teacher, with the aid of her pupils, is very often the caretaker of her own school. This task is not very difficult, however, for once the pupils are interested they do much of the work.

We all enjoy beauty and therefore wish to make our school house and yard attractive and inspiring. First the schoolyard must be enclosed by a fence which must be kept in good condition. A tumbled-down fence shows neglect and gives the school an undignified appearance. Next, the yard must be kept clean, all rubbish, such as weeds, stumps, scattered sticks and stones, removed and the wood piled up neatly. To beautify the school ground there should be a vegetable garden, flower beds and trees; these are not only a decoration, but also a means of education.

Coming to the school building our first effort must be to make it pleasant and wholesome. Attractive pictures on the walls and flowers in the windows (that is during the summer months) help to make the room pleasant. The room must be kept perfectly clean, free from dust and foul air. Door scrapers and door mats are a great help in preventing mud from being carried into the room. Another great help would be a sidewalk about four feet wide, running from the front gate to the door. The floor should be swept every day after four o'clock. Before the sweeping

is commenced the floor should be littered with damp sawdust or something which will prevent the dust from rising. Dusting should be done daily, the best time is in the mornings before school commences. It is necessary that the floors and desks be scrubbed at least every two weeks.

When possible, some one living near by should be engaged to light the fire; when not, the bigger schoolboys may take turns at doing this and also keep on the fire during the day. It is quite necessary that every rural school not fitted with a furnace in the basement be provided with a modern school heater, which is fixed with a water pan for keeping moisture in the air. These heaters are constructed in such a way that they can facilitate ventilation. Each school should be provided with a thermometer, which during school hours should never read below 63° or above 70° fht. To keep the room free from flies window screens and screen doors should be provided. This would be a great improvement for any rural school. Another great improvement would be a closed cupboard for the children's lunches. The room looks untidy with the lunch pails and baskets on the floor, and to have them thus exposed to dust and flies is very dangerous. Another necessary thing not found in every rural school is a sanitary water tank.

Only a few of the things considered as the most important in connection with caretaking have been mentioned, and therefore many things of minor importance must be added thereto if this subject were to be dealt with comprehensively.

"But it is different with the school. Its resources are devoted fully and of set purpose to the sole end of amplifying and directing the child's thought, and fashioning his character. All its appointments, all its mechanics, all its energies, are planned with the child's present needs and capacities and future well-being in view. The school is, then, par excellence, the instrument of education in modern society."—Education as Adjustment, O'Shea, page 59.