

instruction, that his pupils may learn to express themselves in an easy and graceful manner.

DANGER OF TEACHING BY QUESTIONS.

The three methods of instruction now claim our attention. The more common is by *questioning*. Many teachers know of no other way, and some have so little knowledge of the subjects to be taught that they demand to have questions prepared for themselves as well as for their pupils. And bookmakers, quick to observe the condition of the market, often line the margin of their books with leading questions to be used in study and recitation. This is all wrong and one of the indications of the superficiality of the age. The tendency in all departments of learning is to skim the surface and to remove the necessity of thoroughness. Questioning is not the best method of instruction, nor can it be safely adopted as the only method. Yet the method has its place, and may be useful, first, to direct the attention of the pupil to the special topics or thoughts which have been overlooked or omitted in the recitation; secondly, it is useful in conducting reviews and examinations.

HOW TO PUT QUESTIONS.

But the teacher must exercise special care as to the manner of putting questions. 1st. He should never ask leading questions, such as will suggest to the scholar the answer. 2nd. He should always put the question to the class before he calls up the individual, so as to secure the attention of all. And while he should have special regard to the matter, form, and mode of his question, he should also see that the answer is confined to the question, is concise and logical, and given in correct language. This habit of criticism will secure accuracy of thought and expression and impart positive knowledge. It is opposed to that loose and vague method of study and expression which results in mental anarchy and confusion.

VALUE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.

Written answers have the advantage over verbal that they bring the scholar under rigid examination in other departments of primary instruction. A written answer exposes his penmanship, orthography, use of capitals, punctuation, and forms of expression. Hence, this method of examination should be practised as often as time and circumstances will allow.