

believe they are. I am fully persuaded in my own mind, however, that all can learn to spell if they will, just as they become proficient in other branches of study. Of course "no royal road to learning" includes spelling; and much hard work may be the price necessary for some to pay in order to become a good speller. I think it was Gibbon who said: "What men call genius is only the result of hard work," and therefore all who are able to work may become geniuses. Methods of learning and of teaching spelling have a great deal to do with the progress made. I am glad that the old-time method of poring over the spelling book has been largely relegated to the rear, and that "a more excellent way" has been discovered—that is, studying the word as well as the letters which compose it. The child can help himself greatly by turning every opportunity into a spelling lesson, where he has to do with words at all. In reading, for instance, every part of the word should be carefully noticed as much for its spelling as for pronunciation. After a time this habit will not retard the rapidity of the reading, as any proof-reader will tell you.

—A WRITER in the *School Journal* gives the following hints on how to make an improvised writing board for the class-room:—

In the school, where blackboard room is at a premium, the teacher can, with a little extra work and at a comparatively small cost, make a few yards more than is already in the school-room. Take extra heavy canton flannel of the required length and width, and tack firmly and smoothly to surface to be utilized, placing the cloth nap down. Do not put any tacks in it, under the part to be used as writing surface, as they quickly wear through. Over the canton flannel tack common opaque window shading, which can be bought almost anywhere at twenty cents per yard. Dark green is preferable. Here you have a writing surface, at a small cost, which is equal to any, and superior to many of the painted boards usually found in country districts. If moulding cannot be obtained, to give the "board" a finish, take Autumn leaves, press them with a warm flat iron previously rubbed over wax, and pin them or tack them along the edges. This gives a "decorated" look to the board. The leaves will retain their color and shape for many months. If Autumn leaves are not obtainable, small cards may be strung on fine wire, or tacked up.