

Constructive Work for October

A. N. SCARROW

Faculty of Education, University of Toronto

IN beginning this course in Constructive Work we are at once faced with the fact that many senior classes have had none of this work and in this respect are junior classes, while some junior classes who have had the work may be classed as senior classes in this subject. It is believed that it would be better to err on the side of simplicity than in the opposite direction and therefore the work here presented in early lessons would be quite suited for a Second Book grade who had done some of the work in earlier grades. The work in the senior grades should, however, be presented from a new point of view demanding accuracy of measurement and care in working out detail. The early work should be presented largely for the ideas back of the work and should leave much to the child's imagination and invention without laying too much stress on method or manipulation of material. In the later classes this background of ideas will be of great value to the child, but he must now be led to take pleasure in seeing things worked out accurately and with some degree of finish.

The course will largely consist of work in thin paper, stiff paper and cardboard, pasteboard or mill board. Some of the exercises will in addition require bookbinders' cloth and needle and thread for sewing portfolios and books. For a description of suitable materials and prices the reader is referred to the Public School Manual in Manual Training, pages 13-14, which should be in every school and may be had by any teacher from the Education Department for 25 cents. This manual will often be referred to in this course of lessons.

It will be the aim in this course to make the work as practical as possible, and exercises will be chosen with a view to their being of interest to the pupil and leading to finished projects that may be put to immediate use often in connection with some other subject. With this end in view we shall take for our first exercises (1) a simple portfolio made from cover or mounting paper, and (2) a calendar mount, with a design chosen from the course in art work, a calendar sheet to be made at the end of each month and mounted ready for use when needed.

Portfolio tools required: rule, pencil, scissors.

Take a sheet of grey, brown or dark green cover paper 9"×12" and lay it out in a rectangle 8"×12". Mark off each corner about 1" each way, taking care to guide the pupils to see the need of marking