

accent on the syllables "men" and "ce"—*Hymenomyces*. While I have been talking about this word we have not been learning botany, you know; what have we been doing?

S. Learning English only, the meaning and derivation of the English name given to all the classes of fungi we had been forming today.

T. Right. The smoke of a Puff-ball is made up of clouds of its spores. It belongs to another division of fungi—the "*Gasteromyces*."

### Beautify the School Room.

"There is beauty in the rolling clouds, and placid shingly beach,  
In feathery snows, and whistling winds, and dim, electric skies;  
There is beauty in the rounded woods, dark with heavy foliage,  
In laughing fields, and dimpled hills, the valley and its lake;  
In rocks and rivers, seas and plains—the earth is drowned in beauty."

\* \* Why does the average child dread school days? Not, as many make the mistake in supposing, because he is a naturally lazy, unthinking, shirking, little heathen, but because the chord of sympathy that binds him to Mother Nature has not yet been severed. He loves the sunshine, the hills, the shaded crest, the verdure and scents of spring; he loves the teeming soil, the babbling brook, his freedom, and the beautiful conjurings of his fresh, vigorous imagination. What a mistake to wean him from these influences! Education is not a mere accumulation of fact, gleaned from books.

\* \* No matter how rude its construction, any school-house may be made neat and attractive within. Beauty is usually styled simplicity, but its primary element must be cleanliness. The polished stove and blackboard, the neatly kept books and desks, the botanical specimens and work arranged in neat portfolios, the collection of ores and curios arranged on their respective shelves, the book-case with its well chosen volumes, the tidy pupils, the winning teacher, and a pervading atmosphere of good will, are essential elements of school-room beauty and are within the reach of all. Nearly every teacher has a small library of reference books. What would be the effect of adding thereto a few helpful juvenile books and placing all as a free circulating library in the school?

There are other kinds of school-room decoration more purely artistic, and if followed, demanding the teacher's time, attention, and a trifling expense, but yielding in the harvest a hundred fold. Would not muslin drapings and a few potted plants add greatly to the appearance of the school-house windows? The trouble and expense necessary to supply and maintain them is trifling.

Much has been written of the pleasure, refinement, and inspiration derived from good pictures, and at no other day have good—many really beautiful—pictures

been so plentiful and inexpensive as at present. Steel and wood engravings, half-tone cuts, and dainty studies issued with the standard magazines, or frequently given as advertisements, merely for the asking. Yet the majority of our country school-rooms present four blank walls guiltless of all ornament.

\* \* As for mouldings, they may be very simple and inexpensive, but attractive. Frames of pine, if stained and varnished or painted with silver paint do nicely for portraits or studies in black and white, and the result will be far from unpleasing. Pretty landscape or marine cards may have rustic frames, care being necessary to have the frame harmonize with the general tone of the study.

Perhaps the cheapest frame, hinting least of its humble origin, is made of brown pasteboard and covered with any dark brown paper in a single tone.

If the teacher is the fortunate possessor of artistic talent, some original work done with pencil or crayon will greatly interest and please the scholars.

Biography or quotation cards to be hung beneath pictures of men prominent in history or literature are also clever devices, and may be made ornamental by fancy lettering in silver and gold inks. Be scrupulously careful not to over decorate, and having decorated to take the utmost care to preserve the strictest cleanliness. Dusting pictures and arranging books, are excellent gymnastics.

We owe it to others as well as to ourselves, to make our respective corners in life as attractive as possible. As education depends more on the influence and inspiration of our surroundings, than the evolution of methods, new and old, it should be the teachers' aim to make school days the brightest and happiest portion of childhood's life.—*Popular Educator*.

### Laura Secord's Warning.

At a place called Beechwoods, about twelve miles from Queenston was a depot for provisions for the Canadian troops, guarded by a detachment of thirty of the 49th regiment under Lieut. Fitzgibbon with some Indians and militia, in all about 200. In order to surprise and dislodge this outpost an American force of 500 men set out from Fort George, June 23rd, 1813. Laura Secord, wife of a Canadian farmer who had been wounded in the battle of Queenston Heights, determined to give the outpost warning. She set out alone before daybreak June 23rd, and arrived at Fitzgibbon's headquarters at sunset of the same day. On account of American sentries she had to avoid the high roads, to find her way through pathless woods and cross unbridged streams. Her warning came just in time. Lieut.