

WINTER RAIN.

Every valley drinks,
 Every dell and hollow;
 When the kind rain sinks and sinks,
 Green of Spring will follow.
 But for fattening rain,
 We should have no flowers,
 Never a bud or leaf again,
 But for soaking showers.

We should find no moss
 In the shadiest places,
 Find no waving meadow-grass,
 Pied with broad-eyed daises.
 But miles of barren sand,
 With never a son or daughter;
 Not a lily on the land
 Or lily on the water.

—C. G. ROSSETTI.

SPELLING.

A chit of a young teacher in a fourth grade room gave to her pupils the familiar spelling blank, then said, "Draw a picture of anything you like, take something from your pocket, or come and get a picture from this box on my desk, and make out a list of the words you need to describe it." One boy took from his pocket the tail feather of an oriole and made a list of thirty words, spelling all but one correctly. Another took a harmonica, etc. The teacher looked over the papers, noting the misspelled words. To John, who had the feather, she said privately when she had the chance, "You did well on that list. You spelled twenty-nine out of thirty words correctly." John was left wondering about the misspelled word. To Mary and Delle she made similar comments when she had the opportunity. Each day she had a lesson of this sort. On Friday she asked, "Who can spell threads?" A boy wrote the word on the board. Everybody looked at it. She asked John to erase, spell and write it, which he did correctly. Then she said, "John that was the word you missed on Monday." In this way she continued with the most important of the words misspelled during the week. No time was spent on dead lists of words that connected themselves with nothing except the spelling book—and the possibilities of the dim future.—*Primary Education.*

CURRENT EVENTS.

The winter is over and the second stage of the war in France is about to begin. There has been continued fighting to hold the lines throughout the winter months, but no great movement in force. The time for such a movement must be near. The Canadians are now on the firing line near Ypres, at which point, apparently, the Germans may make their final effort to reach the Strait of Dover.

Spring weather is opening the way through passes of the Carpathians which have been blocked with snow, and closing winter roads that were opened by the freezing of the swamps and marshes of East Prussia. Between the two extremes lies a war swept territory more than a thousand miles in length, which has seen during the winter some of the bloodiest battles of the war. In the battle of the Bzura, which ended on February 4, each side is said to have lost about twenty-five thousand men. In the following week, the Russians were driven out of East Prussia for the second time since the war began; but a sudden thaw broke up the ice of the marshes and prevented the Germans from winning a decisive victory. The Russians are now advancing at all points, and a great battle is expected on the Pilica (pee-lyee-tsah), in central Poland. There is no cessation in the struggle for the mountain passes which lead from Galicia into Hungary.

The attack upon the Suez Canal seems to have been abandoned, but there has been further fighting near the head of the Persian Gulf, in which the Turks were defeated.

The chief event of the month has been the bombardment of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles by the British and French fleet which has been sent to attack Constantinople. At the head of this fleet, which is the largest fleet of warships ever assembled for active service, is the new British ship "Queen Elizabeth," carrying eight 15 inch guns. The strait is forty-four miles in length, and from one to four miles in width. The forts that guarded the entrance were soon destroyed, the mines were swept away, and the allied fleet advanced for some distance up the strait to attack the stronger forts at the narrows. Meanwhile it is said that a powerful Russian fleet is approaching Constantinople from the other side. It is expected that the Turks will yield to save the city from destruction.

The German proclamation declaring the coast waters of England and Ireland unsafe for neutral vessels has made little difference in the number of ships sailing from this side of the Atlantic. A few British vessels have been destroyed by German submarines and mines in the proclaimed war zone, and a few neutral vessels sunk in the North Sea. Britain in return will place all possible restrictions on trade with Germany, and has declared all food supplies contraband of war.

British and French ships are blockading the coast of German East Africa.

It has been stated in the Italian Parliament that Austria-Hungary contemplated war against Serbia in 1913, but refrained when it was learned that Italy would not join in an aggressive war. This shows that the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, which occurred in 1914, was not the cause of the war, but merely a pretext.

At a special convocation of the University of Toronto recently, forty-four soldier students in uniform received their degrees without examination.

Forty per cent of the Students of the Manitoba Medical College have enlisted for service at the front.

Hayti has a new government, at the head of which is President Sam, the successful leader of the latest revolution. The United States will recognize him; and will probably establish a fiscal protectorate, as in Santo Dom-