

Very much can be done. In the first place the pupil's vocabulary can be improved and enlarged. Errors in pronunciation can be corrected. The use of slang words and vulgar colloquialisms can be greatly diminished. Pupils can be taught to express with fluency and precision their thoughts upon subjects with which they are familiar. Writing maketh an exact man, particularly when bad writing has to be rewritten after careful criticism, and therefore correctness in spelling, grammar, the use of capitals, abbreviations, marks of punctuation, and the logical arrangement of sentences and paragraphs can be taught by means of numerous exercises. Pupils can be made perfectly familiar with letter forms and the more common business forms. A taste for the good and beautiful in literature can be cultivated.

No part of the teacher's work can be made more interesting or more delightful than helping the child to form a good vocabulary, nor is there any part of her work that calls for greater skill or greater care in the preparation of a lesson before she ventures to appear before her class. Although dealing here with very young children, she must, in order to make the best use of the time at her disposal, exercise great ingenuity in devising means to gain attention and arouse to activity the thinking powers of her pupils.

It must always be borne in mind that knowledge must precede intelligent expression. To a greater or less degree therefore every subject for school study should supplement the language-lessons, but for the earlier years of school life nothing can be more productive of good results in training the child to find appropriate expression for his thoughts than the observation lesson or the lesson in form study. In such a lesson given with the object or model before the class the children are eager to tell what they have just learned, and the only proof that knowledge has been gained will be found in their ability to give expression to that knowledge.

In giving an observation lesson or a lesson in form study to the average class of young children the teacher will find it necessary to introduce several words with which, perhaps, the majority of the children are not familiar. Learning new words is a matter of association. Hence care must be taken to help each child to associate