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GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

The pupils are to be taught to rely solely upon the judgment of the eye in estimating form, distance, and proportion. In the earlier stages guide-lines and points are given, which afford sufficient aid for copying the examples, and render the use of rulers or mechanical aid unnecessary. An intelligent use of the exercises suggested, will rapidly develop the pupils' perception, accuracy, and memory, and give facility and power in free-hand drawing.

It is essential, however, that the teacher should have the means of testing the correctness of the drawings and of proving to his pupils the justice of his criticism; a pair of compasses, and a rule divided into inches and fractional parts will suffice for the purpose, and these should always be at hand.

The book should not be turned while the pupils are drawing, and they ought to sit upright, facing the desk.

A tolerably soft pencil should be used (H. B. is the best), cut to a long, sharp point. It is impossible to make a good clear drawing with a blunt pencil.

The left side of a figure should usually be drawn first. It will generally be advisable to begin by making a slight sketch in faint lines; when the outline appears to be correct, draw it firmly with a distinct but not a black line, and avoid pressing the point of the pencil heavily upon the paper.

Hold the pencil loosely and easily, not too near the point. In light sketching of curves it may be held two or three inches from the point. A pencil less than two inches long should be discarded, or used only with a holder.

The teacher will, of course, forbid the pupils to wet the point of the pencil.

India rubber for erasing should be used as sparingly as possible, and in the preliminary exercises on straight lines it will not be required at all.