

BUSY WORK.

Under this head each month there will be found exercises that may be used for silent seat work, class drills, and review work. Primary teachers are invited to contribute to this column any devices or plans they have found effective in keeping children profitably employed.

LETTER WRITING AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The last REVIEW contained a letter written by a school girl in England to one in St. John, N. B. This practice of boys and girls writing letters to the children in other countries has been adopted in many places with the best results. It gives a reality to the geography and history lessons; and the idea that a letter is to go to a distant place and be read by others is the very best incentive for careful work. Children should be taught at an early age the importance of writing letters neatly and correctly. A letter written by our beloved Queen when she was a child is a curiosity as well as a good model. A friend at one time sent a package of toys to the palace for the princess. The little Victoria was eight years old, and wrote a letter of thanks. This letter has been preserved and is given below. The writing is clear, and the paper looks very neat. All the words are spelled correctly.

Kensington Palace, 15th Jan.
1828.

My dear Lady Downshire,

Dear Mamma allows me to have the pleasure of thanking you myself for all the very pretty things you and Lady Mary have sent me.

Pray give Lady Mary my love, and with mamma's best regards; Believe me,

My dear Lady Downshire,
yours very sincerely,
Victoria.

Children need a great deal of drill in letter-writing to overcome faults which should be overcome in early years or they will cling to one through life. These faults are: They fail in readiness to say clearly and pointedly just what they wish to say; they fail to write correct English; they fail to write the address properly both within and without; they fail to use such stationery and to fold it in such a way, as to give the letter a neat appearance.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

Teach kindness to animals. The following story may be read to children, and they may reproduce it in their own words. They may be encouraged to give other

incidents that they have observed or read of:

Little Fido was very thirsty, for it was a hot day, and his pan had not been filled with water that morning. Nobody seemed to understand how very, very thirsty he was. The cook drove him out of the kitchen when he pulled at her dress and whined, and when he tried to share Pussy's milk, she boxed his ears with her sharp claws. At last he saw little Lena sitting on the porch, and went to her, thinking she would know what he wanted. He took her dress in his teeth and pulled her toward the kitchen sink. Then he sat up on his hind legs and begged right hard. She climbed upon a chair near the sink, turned the faucet, and filled the pan with fresh, cool water for the poor doggie. He drank every drop, and then wagged his tail and put his cold nose into Lena's hand, as if he wanted to say, "You are my good, kind friend; thank you."

SEAT WORK FOR APRIL.

Let the pupils draw twigs of willow, pine, maple, oak, beech, alder, birch. Notice differences in each. Pick out from the catkins of the willow the little flowers, illustrated in the March REVIEW, and have the pupils draw them.

Draw a robin, crow, bluebird, bluejay, English sparrow.

Draw a hornet's nest or bird's nest suspended from a branch. (These ornaments are often seen in school rooms, brought in in the fall of the year).

Write out neatly, using a paragraph for each: Five parts of the hand; five parts of the face; five kinds of trees; five kinds of flowers; five fruits; five kinds of meat; five vegetables; five birds; five animals; five dishes for a table; five tools; five parts of a chair; five kinds of fuel; five kinds of stone; five rivers; five cities; five bays; five nations; five uses of wool; five uses of wood; five uses of iron; five uses of gold; five uses of water; five uses of leather; five uses of silver; five ways to ride; five holidays; five subjects you study; five inventors; five men who have written books.—*American Primary Teacher.*

See if your pupils can fill out properly the following blanks:

- A horse's abode is called a —.
- A lion's abode is called a —.
- A fox's abode is called a —.
- A dog's abode is called a —.
- A rabbit's abode is called a —.
- A spider's abode is called a —.
- An eagle's abode is called a —.
- A hen's abode is called a —.
- A pig's abode is called a —.

NUMBER WORK.

"Playing Store" is a device that may occasionally be used in a first grade number lesson. We will say