

The Planting of Seeds.

Seeds may be planted in different ways to illustrate different facts in their growth. Some small seeds (flax seeds will do) may be planted on cotton floating in a tumbler of water, or in a sponge. This plan illustrates the growth of the root, with fine hairs for taking in the water the plant needs.

Beans, peas, corn, wheat, acorn and other nut seeds may be planted in a box of moist sawdust. From time to time these may be taken out for examination and returned, or put in a bottle of alcohol to preserve the different stages of growth.

Seeds should also be planted in pots of soil, clay, sand, loam and gravel.

Seeds planted in a box or pots of soil will illustrate the manner of appearing above ground. Plant these on the same day and let pupils keep a record of the time it takes each to sprout.

Window boxes six or eight inches deep take up less room than pots and afford an opportunity for each child to plant his own seed. Mark the box off in squares and let the pupils make holes with lead pencils about an inch deep in which to drop the beans or other seeds.

If window space for gardening is limited, give each pupil a handful of seeds and let him plant them in a box or pot at home the same day the school garden is planted, and encourage pupils to watch seeds and report results at school.

A number of seeds should be planted in damp sawdust every week, in order that plenty of material in different stages of growth may be on hand for study.—*Plan Book.*

Of course you are crowded with work, but that is no excuse for your failure to have singing in your school. Five or ten minutes given to singing during the day will be time well spent. A good rousing song at the opening of school will arouse the pupils to take up their work with enthusiasm and they will pursue it with greater energy. A song at the close of the day may remove all unpleasant thoughts of the day from the mind, and the child will go home contented and happy. Singing has a very wholesome effect on discipline. Sing more, scold less.—*Pennsylvania School Journal.*

A Gospel Leaf.

Friend, talk no more of whether death is so

Or otherwise :

Nor reason if the body lives or no

After it dies.

See, from this plane the dying leaf I tear—

Not nothing, friend, but next year's bud lies there.*

—*The Spectator.*

*It is a peculiarity of the plane leaf that the old leaf acts as a sheath to the new.

An Attractive Room.

Make the school-room attractive that the pupils may enjoy the time spent within its walls.

"But how can this be done without an outlay of more than I can afford?" says one.

Very easily; simply arrange tastefully, around the walls, the best work of the pupils. Have a stout wire above the blackboard, or where convenient and suspend the best drawings; these may be easily removed to give place to others of the next lesson and, knowing this, the children look anxiously forward to the time when their results may be considered "good enough" to be exhibited.

Then, too, the specimens of written work should receive equal attention. Select the prettiest illustrated compositions, the neatest spelling slips, and the correctly written letters and pin them upon a panel of strong paper. Heavy wrapping paper or library paper makes a firm background; and where a bright color is desired a very effective background may be made by using red art paper which costs but a few cents a roll.

Teachers, do try these suggestions and see what an improvement there will be, in the work as well as in the general appearance of the room.—*Cambridge.*

Ten Rules of Politeness.

The Santa Barbara, Cal., school board has introduced the study of politeness into its elementary school system. The little manual that has been prepared is headed with the statement: "Scholarship without good breeding is but half an education." The ten rules of politeness that are laid down in the code are as follows:

1. To be polite is to have a kind regard for the feelings and rights of others.
2. Be as polite to your parents, brothers, sisters, and schoolmates as you are to strangers.
3. Look people fairly in the eyes when you speak to them or they speak to you.
4. Do not bluntly contradict any one.
5. It is not discourteous to refuse to do wrong.
6. Whispering, laughing, chewing gum, or eating at lectures, in school, or at places of amusement is rude and vulgar.
7. Be doubly careful to avoid any rudeness to strangers, such as calling out to them, laughing, or making remarks about them. Do not stare at visitors.
8. In passing a pen, pencil, knife, or pointer hand the blunt end toward the one who receives it.
9. When a classmate is reciting do not raise your hand until after he has finished.
10. When you pass directly in front of any one or accidentally annoy him, say "excuse me," and never fail to say "thank you" for the smallest favor. On no account say "thanks."—*School Journal.*