

Christmas Poetry.

BY ELEANOR ROBINSON.

Last December the REVIEW reprinted for the use of teachers Milton's "Introduction to the Hymn on the Nativity," and Ben Jonson's verses beginning: "I sing the Birth was born tonight."

No nobler Christmas poems can be found, and until these have been committed to memory, no others need be sought for; but the children who have already learned them will not be wasting time if they study the verses we print this month.

The first selection is by William Drummond, of Hawthornden, a Scottish poet who lived from 1585 till 1649. It is a paraphrase of the angels' message to the shepherds. (Luke 1: 8-15), and is called

THE ANGELS.

"Run, shepherds, run, where Bethlehem blest appears,
We bring the best of news; be not dismayed;
A Saviour there is born more old than years,
Amidst heaven's rolling height this earth who stayed.
In a poor cottage inned, a village maid
A weakling did Him bear, who all upbears;
There is He poorly swaddled, in manger laid,
To whom too narrow swaddlings are our spheres;
Run, shepherds, run, and solemnize His birth,
This is that night—no, day grown great with bliss,
In which the power of Satan broken is;
In heaven be glory, peace unto the earth."
Thus singing, through the air the angels swarm,
And cope of stars re-echoed the same.

In line 4, "stayed"—supported, fixed firmly. He who *stayed* this earth amidst heaven's rolling height.

"Inned"—housed, as at an inn.

With lines 7 and 8, compare Ben Jonson's

"He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which Heaven and Earth did make,
Is now laid in a manger."

And see the letter headed "A Difference in Meaning" in the REVIEW for January, 1904.

Our second selection is Herrick's "Star Song." Robert Herrick was born in London in 1591, and spent most of his life as a clergyman in a country parish in Devonshire, dying in 1634. He is a very famous writer of lyric poetry.

THE STAR SONG.

(The wise men question the star.)

"Tell us, thou clear and heavenly tongue,
Where is the Babe but lately sprung?
Lies He the lily banks among?"

"Or say, if this new Birth of ours
Sleeps, laid within some ark of flowers
Spangled with dew-light; thou canst clear
All doubts, and manifest the where.

"Declare to us, bright star, if we shall seek
Him in the morning's blushing cheek,
Or search the beds of spices through
To find Him out?"

Star,— "No, this ye need not do;
But only come and see Him rest,
A princely Babe, in 's mother's breast."

The form and rhythm of these two poems make them particularly suitable for simultaneous recitation.

How to Make a "Hektograph" or Glue Pad

Mr. T. B. Kidner, director of manual training in New Brunswick, offers the following instructions on making a hektograph, which will be serviceable to many:

"Take (by weight) one part of best French glue or domestic gelatine, four parts of glycerine and two parts of water. Dissolve the glue in the water in a double boiler, and when all lumps have disappeared stir in the glycerine. Procure from a tinman a zinc tray of suitable length and width, and one inch deep. Pour the mixture into this tray and set it level in a cool place until a jelly is formed.

"Write a copy on smooth paper with special hektograph ink, to be obtained from any good stationer. When the copy is dry, lay it on the jelly, and smooth it down with the side of the hand. Allow the copy to remain in contact with the jelly for about one minute, and then strip it off carefully. Place a clean sheet of paper in the place of the copy, smoothing it as before and remove it after a second or two. From fifty to one hundred good copies can be made in this way. The jelly may then be re-melted ready for another copy."

Business men are unreasonable when they demand that graduates of high schools, colleges and commercial schools should at once adapt themselves to the routine of work on entering a business establishment. No one, it matters not what his aptitude may be, can do that without training. Even the business man himself, with all his self-conceit, will discover, if he looks back a few years, that his mastery of the principles and details of his work was not acquired without great labor. Assuming natural qualifications to be equal, the educated boy will learn more easily than his uneducated brother the details of any business, but he must not be expected to perform miracles by bringing theory and practice together on the first day.—*Western School Journal*.