

There is one case in which I would deprive a pupil of recess, but he need not necessarily keep his seat, and you will not require to do so very often.

Some pupils are continually asking to be excused. You doubt the necessity, but do not care to take the responsibility in all cases of refusing. If you allow one, another considers it his right, and it soon becomes a fixed custom. The following plan will reduce it to a minimum. Give the pupil the option of going out once or losing his recess. There are of course exceptional cases, but these you can deal with separately.

Should pupils be kept in after school? Much nonsense has been talked about pupils' rights in this respect, but I think the teacher has a perfect right to keep pupils in after school. They may be detained for other purposes, and why not for poorly prepared lessons, etc. Teachers are admonished not to use corporal punishment in such cases, and they are told not to keep them in at recesses. What are they to do? Allow them to go unprepared? Not by any means. School hours are not so very long, and they have been getting shorter for some years. If a pupil is idle at home and in school, let him work longer hours. It will not injure such an one, and it is the way of life. Those who are slow must take the longer time. It is true it is somewhat hard upon the teacher to remain after school is dismissed, but surely the parent should be grateful for her trouble in the matter, to say nothing of the pupil. I am sorry to say that such is not invariably the case, and I often think it a good thing that some people are looked after—the boy of course is not capable, but the parent! —

Some teachers give no recess, especially in the afternoon, and let the pupils go that much earlier at night. Others give only a half hour at noon for the same purpose. Both practices are objectionable, especially the last, and what is more, they are illegal, for the reasons given above—two daily recesses are required especially for the younger pupils, and they should not be put at work immediately after a hurried dinner.

The twenty female school teachers appointed a few days ago to teach in the West Chester, Pa., public schools during the ensuing year, were required to sign an agreement not to get married during the year for which they were appointed. There is no rule against courting, provided it is done out of school hours. The board says it is by no means opposed to matrimony, but that it has found such an agreement necessary in order to prevent breaks in the corps of teachers at inconvenient times.

For the Review.]

### NATURE LESSONS.

#### FUNGI—(THE MUSHROOM PROPER).

T. Well! What a variety of toadstools, mushrooms and the like you have brought this September morning! I think no one ever saw so many curious kinds growing together in one place. Here we have fungi from every part of the school section. Now, I do not know the names of one-quarter of them. If I did I might begin to write a book on nothing else than the fungi of this one section. But names are not much, if we do not know something more about them. And the school course of study says we should observe all things. Now what can we observe? Give them names of our own until we know the scientific names.

S. We can observe a good many things about them. Here's a mushroom. Mother just breaks off the stem from it, then peels the skin of its cap and fries it with butter and pepper and sometimes with milk, and they are better than oysters; and we can get any number of them now in our fields, and they cost nothing.

Another S. Yes. I saw people pay ten cents just for a very few of them when I was in the city.

T. Don't you know anything else about them?

S. They say the toadstools are very poisonous, and we would be afraid we might mistake a toadstool for a mushroom; but I never knew any one eat a mushroom. We would be too much afraid.

T. Well, I happen to know something about the mushroom. They make, as one of the boys has said, very delicious food, and as another has said, they are valued very highly where they are known. It is therefore too bad that we here in the country should not know the useful ones for food. It is just as if manna were rained down upon us from heaven, and we were so stupid as not to know it. There are very many of what we call toadstools which make the most delicious food; but some of them are very poisonous; and I am very sorry to be unable yet to know all the good ones. But I know the edible mushroom, and we can be all so sure of it that we may learn not to let any of them appearing on any of our farms go to waste. All the nice things the people in the cities are ready to pay so much money for grow in the country; it is therefore too bad that we do not know at least some of the good fungi ourselves. There are over a dozen kinds, I am quite sure, which are as good as the mushroom; but it is not safe to try them without some knowledge, as some of them are very poisonous indeed. Now let me just read you for a minute a passage from an American writer, Julius A. Palmer, who knows a great deal by experience of our fungi: