

AFTER SCHOOL

Girls and boys are always looking for "something to do" outside of school hours—it may be work; it may be play; it must be occupation. In this department will be printed suggestions of all sorts for young people. Girls and boys can make them. We shall pay two dollars a-piece for all that we accept. Address AFTER SCHOOL BUREAU, Room 1175 Fifth Avenue Building, New York, N. Y.

SCHOOL CITIES

By HARRIET GILLESPIE

TO BELONG to a school city is the ambition of a good many boys and girls nowadays; for in a miniature municipal world of this kind they are able to imitate the activities of all the city officials of the town in which they live, and to receive training for the future, when they shall be old enough to assume their part of the burden of conducting public affairs.

In New York there are a number of these self-governing school cities. In fact, the idea started in the metropolis; but it has since spread, until similar school cities have been inaugurated in most of the big cities, from Maine to California. Chicago has some excellent examples of what can be done along this line, and Milwaukee, St. Louis, St. Paul, San Francisco and others are giving daily examples of the value of teaching practical politics and civics by this method.

As a matter of fact, there is no reason why any school, whether it be located in a big town or not, should not have its school city. The latter is of particular value in schools where there is a large foreign population, though it is needed, too, by the children of American parents, to instil in their minds the idea of good citizenship and to help them to become not only better citizens, but better men and women.

It was only recently, in New York, that Mayor Gaynor addressed the boys of the school city which is known as the model of its kind, No. 114. He congratulated them on the splendid municipal ticket they had just elected, and made a number of suggestions to them regarding the methods of voting in New York state. This will undoubtedly give the boys food for thought, for months to come; and it is pretty certain that none of them will ever forget that the actual Mayor of such a big city as New York condescended to talk with them, nor fail to remember his admonitions.

This school, No. 114, is attended largely by Italian boys, who have worked out an excellent system of school government. The little foreigners have obtained a good working knowledge of practical politics and are gradually coming to realize the fact that so many foreigners fail to appreciate, that each must try and promote the common welfare, no matter at what cost of labor and self-sacrifice.

A school city gives the boys an incentive to enforce public probity not only in the actions of public officials, but in keeping the city clean, sanitary and beautiful. It enables them to distinguish between right and wrong; for the swiftness with which punishment is meted out to the offender, even though it may be for nothing worse than littering up the school yard with waste paper, is but a reflection of what would happen if the delinquent should break municipal laws.

In another New York school city, No. 147, the girls recently gave a remarkable demonstration of their ability to conduct a city government. The Mayor, Miss Bertha Nathanson, convinced various City Fathers, who were present, that women

may be trusted not to make a mess of municipal affairs, if the time ever comes when they have a vote.

BOYS AND BEES

Two boys, in a suburban home, were led one winter to read up on bees. They became so interested that they spent much of their spare time in making one corner of the attic available for the bees. They partitioned it off, and rendered it absolutely bee-tight; inserted glass windows, so that they could inspect the bees at their work; and provided a means of entry and exit for the little insects. The boys made their own hives, after visiting and writing to bee keepers. They purchased a swarm as soon as possible in the spring, and then the real labor began. The bees needed flowers, so there were window boxes and fence boxes and supports to be made, until the whole place showed the results of their work. One of the boys has become quite an authority on bee culture, and other boys of the neighborhood have caught the spirit of the thing. It has proven to be profitable, even in a suburban home.—E. V. B.

A FLAG KITE

Kites are made in all shapes, sizes and styles; but I dare say there are few boys who have seen a flag kite. It is made on a frame, resembling that of the square, fighting kites of the Japanese children. Use reeds, thin strips of wood or bamboo for the frame. For the covering, colored tissue paper or any other thin, tough paper is best. First, make an oblong frame, fourteen by twenty inches; then connect the corners, diagonally, with frame sticks. Next, fasten a frame stick touching the middle of the short sides of the oblong frame, and another stick across the frame, touching the middle points of the long sides of the oblong. Use very small nails, or brads. When the skeleton of the kite is finished, stretch a piece of cord across the ends of the upper short side of the frame, and one across the ends of the lower short side. By drawing these strings shorter than the kite ends, the upper and lower edges of the kite will bulge, causing the face of the kite to be convex. Now cover the kite with white paper. Put a blue field and white stars in one corner. Last of all, paste on the red stripes. Give the kite two tails, fastening them to the two lower corners of the frame. Attach your string, and you will have a fine flag kite, ready to fly.—John Hodell.

THE SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE

By EUGENE C. DOLSON

It puzzled the child, where cows could get Their milk; and she longed to learn.

"Now, where do you get your tears, Linette?"

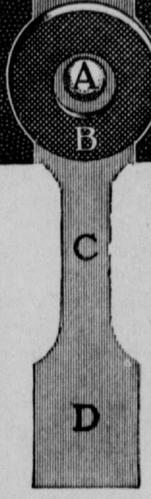
Her mother asked in turn.

And then, with suddenly opened eyes,

And suddenly lifted brows,

"Oh, Mama," she asked in quick surprise,

"Do they have to spank the cows?"



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