

General Exercises are well enough at the proper time, but do not overdo them by devoting too much time to them and slighting the regular lessons from the books, though a short general exercise may supplement many of our lessons from the text books. For example, a few minutes spent in practicing on the oral elements and calling attention to the diacritical marks before calling the reading classes will prove a valuable aid in securing a distinct articulation and correct pronunciation. Geography of the district, township, county and state may be pretty

thoroughly taught to the whole school by devoting a short time daily to such an exercise.

Anatomy, physiology and the laws of health may be taught in this way also, where there is no class in this study in the school. Scholars usually think it is a hard task to write a composition and without frequent practice it certainly is, to most scholars (and to at least one teacher that I know) a task of no small magnitude, but frequent practice will make it easier. When they all seem tired of their books (as they sometimes do) tell them to lay aside the books and take their slates. Then give them a subject that all know something about and tell

them to write all they can in twenty minutes on the given subject. After a few such lessons have been given a marked improvement will be noticed in the facility with which pupils express their thoughts in words. A running exercise in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of numbers I have given to all the arithmetic classes and found it very beneficial in teaching them to think quickly. These are some of the topics that I have used in general exercises with satisfactory results but doubtless there are others just as good. As only a short

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Dear Sparks.
General Croswell.

[text]

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Geo. Sparks
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