



Mrs. Virginia Newman, of Sherman, offers helpful suggestions concerning revision of the spelling lists and rules in a letter of February 16. She is pleased with the sub-junior list this year saying that it is "most excellent." She is also pleased with assignments to the State Adopted Speller.

WRITES O. K. Flowers, of Wingo: "I hand you my suggestion for debate subject for 1931-32: 'Resolved, That Texas should adopt a school system involving State unit for financial support and county unit for administration and absolute compulsory attendance.'

"Explained, this means that all taxation for school purposes would be levied by the state and uniformly distributed. No 10c school tax in one place and \$3.10 in another; that all schools must be taught the same length of term; and that the administration would be under a county board and county superintendent; and that every child of every age must attend school the full term every year until graduated from high school or attained the age of majority.

"If the question is too big cut off the last proposition or if necessary the last two, and restate it to make it intelligible.

"The idea of uniform and adequate support for all the schools of the state is what I would like to see given an airing."

"In checking up on the grades of my football players for the past semester," writes Geo. A. Foltz, coach of Tyler High School athletics, "I find that the twenty-two boys who lettered on the team took a total of ninety subjects. Of this total number we had just a total of five failures. This is a much better record than was made by any group of students picked at random from our school. This would tend to show that the time we lost in football was not a serious handicap to the boys on the team."

Dr. Daniel A. Penick, who has been Director of the State Interscholastic League Tennis Tournaments at the State Meets ever since the League has held state meets in this event, submits the following suggestion:

"How about requiring a uniform dress for girl contestants in tennis instead of permitting the motley assortment served up in recent years?"

In good time, Supt. Bonner Frizzell, Palestine, Director General of the Anderson County League, has issued a clear and condensed program of the county meet which is to take place on two week-ends, March 13-14 and March 20-21. The program concludes: "Let us work together for another successful meet in Anderson county."

The bulletin "Pictures Children Should Know" has had a wide distribution in the State this season. Lydia Danheim, of Brenham, writes that the "children are immensely interested in the picture study and the bulletin. 'Pictures Children Should Know' is a great help." The supply of these pamphlets is running low, and those who expect to use them should order at once.

M. P. Willis, superintendent of the Malakoff schools, says in a recent letter: "I am using the League spelling lists throughout our schools and find them of incalculable benefit to my spellers."

"We are making great progress in the spelling lists that I got while I was there during the holidays," writes T. R. Mobley, of the Claude schools. "We think the lists contain the best and most general set of words that it ever has. I found that the one hundred fifty copies would not be enough, so I am ordering two dozen more. We use it as a text in fifth, sixth, and seventh grades. The use of the basal text in spelling is a good thing I think. We are alternating the two in daily work, and at the same time preparing for the League work."

School Gets 90 Participation In Its Local League Try-outs

The Interest of Pupils Is Secured by Proper Organization

(By ONEITA CHERRY)

IN the Fairview schools, Thrift, Texas, Interscholastic League work is merged with the curriculum. C. R. Owen, superintendent, advocates that in addition to regular scholastic training, the schools should train the pupils for the practical things of life, and this principle is practiced throughout the school. With the chamber of commerce of the school as a working unit, the school is divided into numerous clubs and organizations to develop interest in the material and cultural aims in life.

Mr. Owen thinks that the Interscholastic League work is one of the best means of promoting an enjoyable and full appreciation for these things, and he and his faculty encourage to the greatest extent participation in extra-curricular activities. Approximately 90 per cent of the eligible pupils from a total enrollment of 600, enter into some phase of the League work. The pupils do this of their own accord, and not from compulsion. Of course the teachers have to arouse interest before the pupil desires to enter a contest, but that is also true in any other kind of work. When the interest is aroused, the rest of the work is not difficult for the pupils lead it, with the teachers directing it into beneficial channels.

As an example of how the work is done, the junior declamation method is cited. Before this plan was adopted there was usually one person each year who might be persuaded to enter declamation. The coach, at the be-

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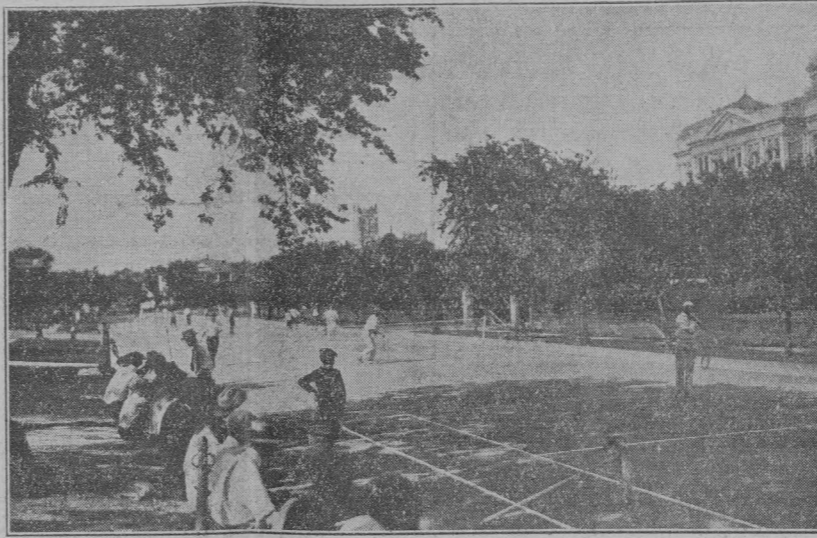
Says 1-Year Transfer Against Small School

(By F. T. Edwards, Clifton)

Having read the articles by both Mr. Duncan and Mr. Norwood, and also your editorial in the December issue of THE LEAGUER, I feel that I would be unfair to the smaller schools of the state, who need every prospective athlete who happens to move into their district, if I did not take a position unalterably opposed to the one-year transfer rule proposed. I'll admit that there are a considerable number of schools which practice methods of recruiting teams that are apparently dishonest, but to rob boys who of necessity must change from one school to another, of a year of eligibility is as absurd in the eyes of justice as stopping all night traffic on highways because a few people get killed by hi-jackers. I have been connected with athletics in the smaller schools for ten years, and find that on the average we have had one or more "honest" transfers per year, and I think that will hold true for a majority of the schools of the state. Now, do you propose to rob all these boys of a year of eligibility just because a dozen or so school officials are dishonest in the matter of recruiting players? (It's the school officials, and not the students, who are dishonest in most cases.) Some of these officials, of course, will try to lay the blame on outside influences, just as some try to lay the blame for poor sportsmanship on the outsiders, but the fact is, they are responsible for these things; and if they're not big enough to control them, they need to step out and let someone have the job who is big enough to handle it. What we need is a tightening up on the present rules, and steps taken to eliminate dishonest school officials from handling the affairs of league member schools.

"If he still has his appendix and his tonsils, the chances are he is a doctor."—Life.

Improvised Tennis Courts 1922 Meet



TENNIS is a fairweather sport. The State Tennis Tournament of the League has been set for the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of May for the last eighteen years, and not one time has the Director (Dr. Daniel A. Penick) failed to show up in the late afternoon hours of Saturday with the names of the winners in each of the four divisions. He has been accused of having some occult understanding with the weather man, but we don't believe it. His success is due to good management rather than to good luck or to ledgerdemon. The Leaguer for May, 1924, heads the account of the Tournament of that year with the following paragraph:

"Circumstance over which we had no control, namely, the weather, interfered with the greatest Interscholastic League tennis tournament ever held. Mud, slush, chill winds and lowering clouds were entries unannounced in the program, and showers at intervals dampened everything except the ardor of the contestants. It was hard treatment for this genteelst of all sports, but nevertheless the matches were pulled through with the following results:" etc.

But more formidable were the conditions in 1922. Two tornadoes in the environs of Austin on Friday afternoon of the meet, together with wind, hail and deluges of rain, wrecked the smooth-working elimination machine, and things looked quite hopeless. Equal to the emergency, however, Dr. Penick roped off the stretch of then newly laid pavement on Colorado Street west of the Capitol, and before an hour had past, the machine was in working order again. All of the matches were played, and winners determined. The above cut is made from a photograph taken about 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the second day of that memorable tournament.

Herndon Recalls League Contests

Former State Winner in Declamation Now Rector of St. Philip's, Uvalde



Rev. Henry Herndon

THOSE who remember the declamation contests of the League fifteen years ago will doubtless recall that one young man, Henry Herndon, came to the State Meet three successive years, winning third place the first year, second place the second year, and first place the third year. Later he entered the University as a student and was employed in the League office on a part time basis during his college career. Henry was a faithful worker and a good student. We asked him a short while ago for a brief account of himself since leaving the University, and he replied as follows:

"About myself, I have very little to tell you for your Interscholastic Leaguer; cannot even remember definitely my League experience.

"If my memory serves me right (I never thought I would ever have to recall it), I participated in the Senior Boys Declamation contests in '14, '15, and '16; winning in order 3rd, 2d, and 1st places. I am not sure about '14 and the 3d place, but I believe I participated then and won the smallest honors. Can you look that up? I believe that in '18 San Antonio took home the Silver Cup for keeps, having won it for three successive years.

"What a time we used to have at the meets! Bob Fields and Henry Lee Taylor used to entertain us S. A. boys and there were always lots of tricks played on us by University students. One year we stayed in the 'Y'. They got us all in a room one night and then had a fellow come in acting fighting drunk. He had a long knife in his hand brandishing it around. Some of us took to the corners, behind doors, or under the beds. The laugh was certainly on us. The 'drunk' man was a good 'Y' member. But we would always get a lot of coaching from the University

*Also former League winner in Public Speaking, later "bad" scholar, now practicing attorney in New York.

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Says One-year Transfer Rule Will Work Beneficial Result

West Texas Man Favors Ironclad Migratory Provision

(By Supt. M. H. Duncan, Lubbock)

WHEN a football contestant changes schools the superintendent or principal of the school from which he changes must sign a certificate saying that, in his opinion, the contestant's parents or guardians were not induced to make the move for payment direct or indirect of any valuable consideration for the athletic services of the said contestant. (See Article VIII, Section 14, of the Interscholastic League Rules.)

Present Rule Good
The above rule is a good one and no doubt prevents a good deal of proselyting, but it does not prevent recruiting that is done on a larger scale. In the first place, many school people are inclined to pass the matter up unless they see clearly a violation of the rule, and even then, in some instances, they are not willing to act because the burden of proof is not on them and the injury to result from transfer is not on their school. But if we put into force the one-year residence rule, we stop the matter at its source and do not have to depend upon the action of any man. If a boy changes schools it is clear that he cannot play football for a year and the matter is not left to the judgment, lack of judgment, or apathy of any one man.

Recruiting Is Serious
The evil is too serious to be reached by such a rule even when school officials are one hundred per cent efficient in the performance of their duty along the line. For instance, a certain town has a recruiting committee made up of the gamblers and others who want to see their local team win the district every year and

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Rule to Prevent Graduation Delay

It Is Found That Football Players Prefer Next Year's Eligibility to Diploma

WE PUBLISH below a letter from Superintendent Bonner Frizzell, of Palestine, to the other Class A schools in his district setting forth a resolution passed by the Palestine School Board designed to discourage delayed graduations by students ambitious to thus insure another year of eligibility in inter-school contests:

"Just before the beginning of our second semester, three boys in the low senior class who are also members of the local football team, presented requests signed by their parents asking that the boys be exempted from taking 11B English during the second semester in order to disqualify themselves from graduation in May. Upon investigation, I found that the prime purpose of the request was to enable the boys to play football next season. With the facts before me, I presented to the school board the following resolution:

"Be it resolved, That no student in Palestine High School shall be eligible to compete in inter-school contests for more than two semesters after the completion of twelve or more units of credit, provided courses or classes can be scheduled that will enable a student affected by this resolution to graduate within two semesters after the completion of twelve units or credits.

"Since the adoption of the resolution by the Board considerable pressure has been brought to bear to have it rescinded. It is contended that it is a common practice for athletes to disqualify themselves for graduation when they may be eligible for further participation in athletic contests, and that the resolution we have adopted places the local high

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Now is Time to Enrich Collections of Wild Flowers for State Contest

By DR. B. C. THARP

NOW is the time for schools which have heretofore failed to enroll in the wild flower contest to follow that impulse and enroll Abundant rains all over the state insure a most wonderfully colorful and fragrant spring. Already the early flowers are beginning to appear, even in north Texas; dozens are in bloom in central Texas; while along the lower Gulf coast and the Rio Grande spring is almost in her fullness of bloom.

Call Them By Name

How many of your wild flowers do you know? Would you not like to be able to recognize them and call them by name? Have you read about this contest in your Constitution and Rules, pages 69-73? If not, let me suggest, and even urge, that you do so now, and see what a wealth of return you get for your efforts.

Neither teacher nor pupil need know absolutely anything about botany; you do not have to worry over huge, strange looking words that mean nothing to you. All you have to do is to understand and follow a few simple directions on how to gather and take care of your specimens.

Follow Directions

We know they are understandable, because some of the best material we have received has come from small schools whose teachers have had no botanical training; but it does require care in reading the directions and in following them.

Many of the earliest flowers, small and dainty, are found upon small and dainty stems. These are easily dried and pressed, and make excellent material for the beginner. They may be collected and sent in as fast as they appear, so that the whole quota of

fifty plants necessary for next year's entry may be completed and named before school is out.

Be Sure to Date Collection

Experience shows some mistakes which occur with sufficient frequency to make mention of them desirable. One is the omission of the date of collection. This should always be kept. There is a blank space on the printed labels sent out from the Department of Botany marked "Date"; but, oddly enough, many contestants have understood it to mean, not the date the specimen was collected, but the date the package is mailed to Austin. Obviously the date of shipment can have no significance, whereas the date on which a specimen is collected is very important since it marks its season of bloom.

Another place where misunderstanding is not uncommon is in the real necessity of frequent change of drying paper if bright, attractive specimens are to be produced—and any other kind is worthless.

Get Right Sized Papers

Another is in regard to the size of the folders in which the specimens are dried. These are made from newspaper sheets a single page in size, folded in the middle, top over bottom, as they come in the Sunday papers. This direction is not hard; indeed it would be difficult to do it otherwise, since the papers come folded just the way we want them—but we get all sorts of folders except the sort we specify. These are a few illustrations of how easy it is to misunderstand.

The federated garden clubs of Texas are actively sponsoring the contest, and will furnish the prizes to be awarded the winners of the three highest places in the state meet. Read the rules carefully. Follow them implicitly. Write for your labels. Start your collections in earnest NOW!

Explanation

The article describing the Wild Flower Contest in the February issue of the Leaguer was wrongly ascribed by the Editor to Dr. B. C. Tharp. It was in fact written by Miss Eula Whitehouse, but with Dr. Tharp's authorization and approval.

