

DANCING - MARY WOOD HINMAN

Feb. 12, 1909.

In the First Grade we are learning the Swedish game "Merry-go-round", and the Danish "Shoemaker". The children can waltz in line using the left turn. They have accomplished the Gallop Square. Each child has learned to bow correctly and shake hands. During this month we are going to have grown people join in the games as often as possible. We have also accomplished the Grand Right and Left. The rhythm of this class is remarkable. They can clap the rhythm for a two step, waltz or a gallop.

Second Grade:

This grade reviews the work of the First Grade, and can do the waltz, gallop and two step in open position. They can make their square to the left or right, and are also remarkably good in their rhythm.

Third Grade:

The children in this grade have learned to introduce correctly. They are much interested in the new game of "Fairy". They have also taken the Swedish game, "Hey, Little Lassie". They are beginning to dance the gallop in couples.

Fourth Grade:

This grade is the first one to undertake a folk dance, and they have completed the "Sailor's Hornpipe", and have added to their list of ring games the "Klap Dans", "Today's the First of May", "Snurrebacken" and "Fiddlers". They can waltz, two step and gallop in couples. Their rhythm is good. They can introduce, seat their partner correctly, shake hands with the correct bow, the boy stepping behind the girl in the circle, remembering his handkerchief at the back of the girl's dress, and the Grand Right and Left goes off with quite a flourish.

Fifth Grade:

This grade has been quite a problem as we have had twice as many boys as girls. We have learned the "Spinning" dance, which is an industrial dance of Sweden, and we have just accomplished "Vingaker", a Swedish dance which takes two boys and a girl to execute. We had planned to do the "London" dance in this grade, but it was impossible to carry out on account of the uneven division of boys and girls. I do not feel that this group is up to last year's standard in the small points.

Sixth Grade: Girls' Group.

The girls have taken six steps in the "Highland Fling", finished the "Cachucha", can do the Norwegian "Mountain March", and are beginning work on "Re Jane" and the "Greek" dance.

The Sixth Grade group of boys and girls have taken the "Highland Fling" through to the sixth step, can waltz, two step, gallop and polka together nicely, in good position and in time. They can introduce, bow, seat their partner and take the part of host and hostess in quite an easy manner.

Miss Hinman - #2.

Seventh Grade: Girls' Group.

These girls have finished the "Cachucha", "Highland Fling", "Rejane" and "Mountain March"; they have also finished a Spanish dance and are now working on their "Greek" dance. It is very noticeable in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades the tremendous help it is to the boys to have the girls all such good little dancers. Each partner he has is like a special teacher.

Girls' and Boys' Group, Seventh Grade:

We had the problem here up to Christmas of twice too many boys, and it made work on the "Weaving" dance very difficult, but last Friday three groups went through the "Weaving" dance from beginning to end correctly, which is the first time such a thing has been done in the school. This means thirty-six children were participating in a dance where each child had an individual part to perform. The drill and team work is splendid here, besides the actual technique required for execution. There are four boys in this group who are new in the school this year and it is difficult to bring them up to the standard of the other boys.

Eighth Grade: Girls.

These girls are remarkable in their ability to concentrate on their work. Their execution is splendid and they are a joy to teach. We have finished the "Sampson Spanish" dance this year, also the "Gotland Quadrille", and are now beginning work on their graduation dance, which will take place at the May Festival.

Eighth Grade: Boys and Girls.

This grade has accomplished the "Irish Lilt", the "Gayety", "Vinager", "Virginia Reel", and is now working on the "Buck and Wing". This grade is the easiest of the whole school to handle, seems to be the most responsible, and when you consider the fact that they are at the trying age, just before entering high school and "long pants", it seems as if the dancing has had a decidedly civilizing influence.