

Schools, and which to Academic or High School pupils. The Higher Readers are eminently suited for advanced pupils.

While it remains with each Board of School Commissioners to decide upon the mode of procuring Text Books, whether through the agents of the State Board of Education, or by direct orders upon the publishers, endorsed by the Superintendent, it may be well to explain what has been done to facilitate the transmission of books, and to secure a correct system of accounts, by which the interests of the publishers and School Boards may be guarded, and all orders filled with accuracy and the least possible delay.

By an arrangement with the publishers, books can be delivered in all parts of the State accessible by public conveyance. The contract requires that all expenses of transportation, boxing, &c., be included in the price at which the book is offered. The books to be kept in quantities in the stores of the agents of the State Board in Baltimore, so that there can at all times be a supply to meet any demand, whether it be for 6 or 100 copies.

Whenever books are distributed to fill orders, duplicate bills will be made—one for the Treasurer of School Board, and the other for the State Superintendent. Thus the Superintendent will know where and when the books which have been sent to the State Agents have been distributed.

In each county an accurate account must be kept with each School to which the books have been issued, in order to show the cost for each School; also, a schedule of the number of the number of each kind of book used. From this a fair opinion can be formed as to the grade of advancement in the School; the books for instruction will indicate whether the standard of learning stands still or rises.

It is expected by the publishers that all orders will be followed by prompt payment, say 80 or 90 days, and they have been assured that such will be the fact, after the Schools have been fairly organized, and are in harmonious action. For the first supply, however, it is agreed that a credit of 3 or 4 months will be granted, if necessary.

In distributing the books to the Schools, and through the Schools to the pupils, each Board has the authority to devise its own plans. The books may either be sold to the pupils, or the use of the books granted for a small sum per term, about an average of 75 cents—or else 50 cents for the youngest children, and \$1 per term for the oldest and most advanced pupils, who need the more costly books. Whenever a parent is able, he ought to be induced to purchase the books used by his child. If the pupils own the books they will be careful to preserve them, treat them with proper respect, and thus attach to them a dignity and importance, the absence of which is a great drawback to progress in study. The mechanic who is most careful of his tools is the workman who produces best