

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION—B.  
(NEW SERIES.)

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AGRICULTURE  
IN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS,

BY  
J. P. McLENNAN,  
Head Master, Warragul Agricultural High School,

With  
APPENDIXES by C. E. ISAAC and W. FRENCH.

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By Authority:  
Albert J. Mullett, Government Printer, Melbourne.

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# AGRICULTURE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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## INTRODUCTION.

The primary object of teaching agriculture in elementary schools is not to make farmers. The underlying reason why such teaching is desirable is that it brings the rural school into touch with the home life—the daily life of the community. The work is interesting and educative, and the materials are easily obtained; they are always at hand.

The boys and girls have the opportunity of learning the fundamental principles of the growth of plants. The observing and thinking faculties are trained, and the pupils are enabled to understand better the natural phenomena by which they are surrounded. The teaching of agriculture is one of the best means of training a student's mind; he studies the things that come within his experience—the things with which, and by which, he lives.

The work should consist, for the most part, of—

- (a) Indoor experiments, dealing with what is commonly termed the theory of agriculture;
- (b) The growing of plants in outdoor plots under varying conditions;
- (c) The keeping of records of the experiments and their results.