

THE FORM—SIMPLE OR COMPLEX.

The government may be very simple, consisting of only one or two of the three departments, law-making, law-enforcing, and law-explaining, with a head officer for each department. However, it is desirable to include all three departments, and except in kindergartens and first and second primary grades, to have a separate clerk for each one of the three departments. The form may be still more complex, according to the judgment of the superintendent or the teacher using the method.

It may follow more or less closely national, state, municipal, county, town, territorial or other forms of government. It avoids privileged classes and obsolete forms and titles. It may employ the initiative, referendum and recall, and it may use the commission form of government.

The form of government is not so important as the right spirit of citizenship. The form of democracy may be the most effectual tool of tyranny, without this.

MANY NAMES AND APPLICATIONS OF THE SYSTEM.

It is called by many names, such as Children's Democracy, Youths' Commonwealth, School Republic, School State, School City, County, Town, or Village, Boys' Republic, Girls' Republic, Pupils' Self-government, etc. It is a method which provides for the constant practice of citizenship, teaching and leadership for use in all colleges, public and private schools, playgrounds, camps, clubs, and wherever young people are associated more or less permanently, and is in effect a social, civic and pedagogical apprenticeship, under instruction.

THE ORGANIZATION.

The pupils in each school room elect a mayor, president of city council, judge, and in all grades above the second or third, a city clerk, clerk of council and clerk of court, treasurer and such other officers as circumstances may require. All the pupils in the room are so few that it is practicable for them to take a direct part in legislation as the people of New England do in their town meetings. They may consider themselves as members of the council, or they may elect a few councilmen to represent them and attend to the legislative work.

The mayor, with the concurrence of the city council, may appoint a captain of police and four police officers, two boys and two girls. In the same way he may appoint officers of cleanliness and health, and others to look after the various interests and activities, such as the li-