

446. WAR-TIME TASKS FOR CHILDREN

The Board of Education wishes to encourage schools to organise children to gather wool from fences, hedges, trees, etc. Gathered wool should be sent carriage paid, in bags preferably containing not less than 50 lbs. to the Gathered Wool Officer, Cumberland Works, Wool Control, Bradford. The wool will be valued there and the proceeds remitted. No cleaning or sorting is necessary before the wool is despatched.

It is suggested that besides the gathering of wool, many other useful collections could be made with very little trouble. For instance the normal supply of foodstuffs for pigs will be very short, and acorns, beech mast, or horse chestnuts are most useful for pig-feeding and schools which can collect these should get into touch with local farmers to find out whether they can use this food. There are also herbs which children could assist in collecting, such as the Colchicum (otherwise known as autumn crocus or meadow saffron). Both the corms and the seeds are used in medicines for gout and rheumatism. If the ground is hard the corm is likely to be broken and it is better to wait, therefore, until the soil is moist and the corm will come out with reasonable ease, but they should be dug up within the flowering time in the Autumn. Children should be warned that Colchicum is deadly poison.

Schools able to organise the collections of herbs should communicate with one of the undermentioned firms:

Messrs. Stafford Allen & Sons, Ltd., 2, Wharf Road, City Road, N.1.

Messrs. Potter & Clark, Ltd., 60, Artillery Lane, E.1.

Messrs. W. Ransom & Sons, Ltd., Hitchin, Herts.

Messrs. L. A. Horner & Sons, 12, South Tenter Street, E.1.

Messrs. Rome & Schimmer, 6, Leather Market, E.C.1.