

BOYS OF THE SEA.

TRAINING AT GRAVESEND SEA SCHOOL.

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Picture.:-

On a cold and wintry day, with the wind freezing the fingers, boys of the--

--Gravesend Sea School are given knotty problems, making--

--bends and hitches, with the fingers like a bunch of--

--cold bananas isn't easy, but sailors don't care. Here's a warmer job ! Descending into a--

--burning hold equipped with smoke helmets. All these tasks are part of the training of--

--lads wishing to enter the Mercantile Marine.

In Uncovering and stripping down hatches, assistance is given--

--by winch driving. The school comprises--

--a well-equipped shore establishment, with a floating--

--auxilliary training base on the Triton; The ship moored--

--off the school. Lifeboat--

--drill ! Releasing the boat from--

--its deck lashings and pushing her out--

--on the davits ready for lowering--

--in case of emergency. These boys are taught everything, and can mend anything--

--from a hole in the ship's side--

--to a hole in the seat of their trousers, both extremely useful accomplishments. The Board--

--recognises this training--

--as the equivalent of one month's service at sea.