

leading questions, starts him to investigate and to wonder.

Instead of answering the child's questions directly, the teacher can suggest observations and experiments which will prolong the child's interest and develop in him the habit of questioning nature herself.

The teacher may not know the answers to the children's questions; but it is good teaching to have the questions asked. The teacher is not the only source of information.

When the first butterfly appears, one of these warm April days, raise the question, "Where did it come from?" "Where did it spend the winter and how?" It is not necessary to answer these questions at once. In fact, the answer depends on the kind of butterfly it is. Some kinds spend the winter as bears do. Many pass the winter in the chrysalis stage. The answers to some school questions may be discovered years afterwards. And what a pleasure the discovery is!

It matters little whether children get much nature information in school or not. It depends on the way they get it. But it is tremendously important that they should acquire the habit of asking, wondering and investigating.

There are many things that children must be told. Life is too short to discover everything of economic importance. With each telling, however, set a task that will enable the child to verify the statement.

It is possibly out of place here to give cut and dried details of a nature lesson. I believe, however, that teachers could be of very great assistance to each other by reporting observations they have made or methods they have used in connection with nature teaching.

I am enclosing a little nature story based on observations made in germinating beans. It was written by Miss Muriel Boutilier, Dartmouth, N. S. Let children test the truth of the story by growing some beans in school.

What was the "brown blanket?" What was the "white sheet?" Notice whether the "little toes" are the first to break through the sheet. Did it push its "whole body" above the brown blanket? Possibly there are mistakes here. Find out.

Following is the story:

### The Spring Baby.

The last red glow of the April sun was sinking in the golden west, as Mother Nature, after asking God's blessing, kissed her Baby Bean, and tucked him into his warm little bed. The cosy, brown, blanket was wrapped well around him; and, as he was going to have a long sleep, even his little eyes were covered so that the golden dawn would not awaken him.

Soon our baby was lost in slumber, travelling in a dream through the delightful lanes of fairyland. Here he was finding so many wonderful, beautiful things that he felt very cross when a gentle tap, tap, on his brown blanket awoke him.

His new friend, the rain, however, came in; so he was not a bit lonely. He told the rain where he had been and how much he had enjoyed his visit. "Why, my dear," returned his friend, "by just taking a little drink you may really go to this beautiful land."

After his guest had gone, our little Bean followed his advice. Soon he began to feel so big, the little white sheet in which he was wrapped felt so tight, he was sure that he would not be able to breathe. Suddenly the sheet burst and, Oh joy! he was able to wiggle his little toes out. Next, he pushed his little head out above the brown blanket; and finally his whole body emerged.

"Oh," he exclaimed, "the rain was right. I can now see all the beautiful, wonderful things." Each morning as the dawn awoke the birds, and he heard their sweet songs, he felt himself growing taller and taller. Soon he spread out two little arms with which he pushed himself up still higher.

So he kept on wiggling his little toes down deeper among the worms and his little head higher towards the birds.

Tree planting in the west is important; the renewing of the white pine is important; the pulpwood question is important; many other phases of the question are important, but the all-essential thing in regard to the question of forests is to get the community wakened up to the idea that at any cost the destruction of forests by fire must be stopped.

