

habits, how it overcomes obstacles, how and where it thrives best, what it yields, how it takes substances from the earth and air, and converts them into food, these appeal more strongly to the active and enquiring child than making flowers into hay—dry work for a young naturalist. A mounted specimen of a bird, or a limp and lifeless body handed round in a class, may explain some details of structure. But is this all? The happy bounding flight, the joyous song, the services of birds to man, the sacredness of life, kindness to animals—are not these of more importance than structure and names? The lack of intelligent interest in plants and animals on the part of most young persons is due to the way in which the subject is presented to them in school.

Do teachers realize how fascinating it would be for their pupils to measure the distances along the roads which they walk over every day, to know the common wild flowers, trees, birds, and small animals by the wayside? To know the heights of the hills, the length of streams, the areas of fields and lakes near by. To have a portion of the school or home garden to tend and study the conditions of plant growth, along with bird and insect life? To be interested in the little animals that live in the fields and woods, and to have domestic animals to take care of daily? In these and a hundred other pursuits the enthusiastic teacher may lead the way, and stimulate and direct young people to make investigations. The children should be told as little as possible and be encouraged to find out as much as possible for themselves. It is wonderful how much may be accomplished by giving a boy or girl a start.

A friend of mine who is interested in the stars was staying at a house in the country for a week. She taught one of the boys of the family the positions of a few of the constellations, the planets in view, and some double stars; lent him a map of the heavens and a book on astronomy. The boy was an apt pupil, and the summer and winter skies have since been to him and many of his young friends the source of untold interest, opening a new world and sweetening hours of toil.

There is no need that country life should be monotonous. The fall of the leaves in autumn, the winter's sleep of plants under nature's protective garment, the ever-new awakening in