

Greek, grows in many species hard to distinguish, but the names of which ripple—*aster azureus*, *aster undulatus*, which are certainly characteristic names. The noticeable colours of the flower-heads vary from pale blue to purple and are always beautiful.

Equally numerous in species is the golden-rod, whose generic name, *solidago*, from *solidare*, to make whole, shows its medicinal value. Tall, slender, carrying its golden plumes, which throw back the sunlight, the golden-rod is the most beautiful native flower of America. Among all the immigrant plants that creep or climb or, erect, try to meet our gaze, the golden-rod stands as if conscious of its beauty of line and colour and mass, disdaining to trespass in our fields, proudly content with bank and roadside.

When your afternoon tramp is over, before you close the Manual you carry with you, pay one grateful thought to the men who have made the way of botany easy for you. "L." first, "Br.", "Michx.", abbreviations which at one time only added mystery to a difficult science, but which a later knowledge enables you to recognize as the sole monument to men whose patience first analyzed the plants to the names of which these abbreviations are added—men who have made the gentle, the humane art of botany.

For studying flowers is the gentlest, most humanizing pastime. No one who knows flowers can be wicked or hard or cruel; yet the struggle for survival among plants is as keen as among men; indeed sometimes, pitifully hard. I suppose we do not feel it so, because, however severe the struggle, there is no noise, no complaint, no dirt, no action.

It is well for us to notice the beauty there is in common things and in those which patiently await the attention we do not often give. We easily see the interest and beauty of those things for which we work or for which, to put it crudely, we pay.

