

NATURE STUDY.

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The most fascinating spot for the next few weeks is the garden. Those who are making new gardens will have visions of a glorious harvest a few months later, and those who have old gardens are watching to see how many shrubs and perennial flowers lived through the winter.

Children who become interested in gardening are acquiring habits that will give them greater pleasure and contentment in years to come than will, perhaps, any other one interest. Let them, therefore, prune their own rose bushes, set out their own strawberries, transplant their own shrubbery, plant their own seeds, and arrange their own perennials to suit some color scheme that may have been developed in the drawing lessons.

There is such an abundance of material during the next two months that every teacher and every pupil will be kept busy. I feel, therefore, that I may very profitably resign further space to the following story, written by Miss Mary Jennison, Truro.

The "Miss Brown" whom Miss Jennison has created is worthy of imitation. We'll let Miss Jennison tell us about her.

"POTATO" DAY AT SCHOOL.

One of the most interesting visits I ever paid to a public schoolroom was made one Friday, last autumn, at the invitation of Miss Brown, the teacher of some fifty little urchins in grades V and VI. The opening exercises were just over when I entered and all eyes were fixed on Miss Brown, as she said with a smile: "How many would like to have a 'potato day?'" In response to this seemingly amazing question, every hand was raised.

"A couple of weeks ago," she explained to me, we had a "wheat day," and the children were so interested I thought I would repeat the experiment. First, she continued, turning to the class, "we will have a 'potato story.'" Whereupon followed a short tale of the discovery of the wild potato in Virginia by Sir Walter Raleigh, with something of his adventures in that country and of the introduction of the potato into England and its subsequent cul-

tivation, told in simple, striking language, and in such a way as to appeal to the imagination of her listeners.

"Next," said Miss Brown, when the story was finished, "we shall do our arithmetic. No, you need not take out your books yet. Who can tell me how much it would cost a farmer to plant his field with potatoes if it took seven bushels of seed at seventy-five cents a bushel?" The deepest interest was shown as the children calculated this simple problem and awaited the next. About half a dozen were given before the exercise books were taken out and the more serious work of the day was begun.

As grade V was struggling with fractions, while grade VI had graduated into weights and measures, their questions were based on the topics which they were studying. I took the liberty of copying a representative problem of each grade from the board and quote them below:

Grade V.

A grocer bought 88 bu. of potatoes @ 61 cents a bu.; $\frac{3}{4}$ of them he retailed @ 65 cents and the rest @ 60 cents. Did he gain or lose and how much?

Grade VI.

How high would the walls of a bin 8 ft. long, 6 ft. wide have to be in order to contain 605 bu. of potatoes?

After arithmetic came recess, and then geography, which this morning took the form of a brief study of the chief potato growing countries of the world; their position, climate, inhabitants, industries and facilities for commerce—carried on by means of maps and pictures, especially picture postcards from the various countries named.

During this lesson and the next, the difficult words used were carefully written on the board by the pupils and allowed to remain. From the geography lesson the talk naturally followed on to the study of the potato as a plant; its varieties, the soil required for its growth, the way in which the plants were propagated, its enemies, special reference being made to the potato beetle and methods used for its extermination,—all this was amply illustrated. The plant with tubers of various kinds, as well as the potato balls, being passed round the class, while many interesting pictures showing planting,