

of the woods and fields were shown and explained to the children. The growth of the oak, from the acorn to the tree, was shown to them; the myriad of living things making their home upon a leaf, the fortifications of the ant, its house-keeping, its art of war.

The child who learns those facts about the commonplace things around it, lays hands on a world of mystery and immutable law, whose maker is God.—*The Household.*

—THE importance of a good foundation for a school-house is illustrated by the following story:—

“The magnificent new High School building in Springfield, Mass., is infested by vast hordes of rats. The school-house was erected last year at an expense of \$400,000, and is the pride of the city. Ever since the building was completed it has been known that many rats made their home in it, but not until recently have the rodents appeared in such numbers as to excite apprehension.

“Some of the older residents of the city account for the presence of rats in the school-house by the fact that the building stands where there was once an old jail, and an unused sewer runs underneath it. Through this, they say, droves of rats swarm up from the river bank into the basement.

“Until about two months ago the rats rarely or never ventured out of the basement. Of late, however, they have become extremely bold and have nearly overrun the whole building. The marauders soon discovered the lunch-room and made an assault upon it. Food disappeared so rapidly and persistently that the principal called a council of war and took stringent steps to put an end to these gastronomic feats.

“When shut out of the lunch-room the rats tried to subsist upon a literary diet. Virgil, the Anabasis and Wentworth’s geometry were among the sufferers. German and French grammars and the elements of chemistry were devoured with equal avidity. Scarcely a pupil but found his text-book mutilated.

“The teachers held meeting after meeting to consider plans for ridding the building of the pests. All sorts of traps were set, but all in vain. No trap could deceive rats that had digested the theorems of solid geometry. The School Committee proved as incompetent as the teachers to cope with the difficulty.”