

sympathize with all his creatures — these transcend all other aims, and without these neither wealth nor learning can make a home worthy of the name.

Since the main aim of the school should be to conserve and improve the home life of the people, a garden is as useful an adjunct to the school, both in the country and in the city, as it is to the home. The main principles of plant culture may be learned by children in a garden plot quite as well if not better than on a farm. Something may be done in schools where there is no garden by means of window boxes and flower-pots. To tend sympathetically a few plants, supply their needs from day to day, and learn to look upon plants as living things, each with a wonderful life-history, could scarcely fail to leave a lasting impression upon the minds of the young.

We may venture to hope for a time when capitalists shall see that family life is necessary to the highest success of their enterprises, and when they will prefer, or be required by law, to establish their factories at some distance from the cities where their employees may live under more natural and less depressing conditions, each family in a separate cottage with its lawn and garden. But unless the husband and father has acquired in youth some practical knowledge of the cultivation of plants and some sympathy with country life, there is little likelihood that he would profit much by the better conditions. The speaker urged that efforts should be made to retain in the service of the country schools, as their life-work, a greater number of the best male teachers, and that suitable courses of study should be provided to fit men of ability, with the instinct of leadership, to organize and direct the educational forces in each parish or unit of territory, and to conduct special courses for the older children.

A discussion followed the reading of this valuable paper, in which Inspector Steeves, Dr. G. U. Hay, Dr. H. V. B. Bridges and W. H. Hubbard, Secretary of Agriculture, took part.

Mr. George Raymond, school trustee, of Bloomfield, Kings County, gave an excellent practical address on How the School Trustees may Promote the Educational Interests of a District. He advised that teachers should apply their work to the grown people as well as to the children; also that trustees should attend institute meetings.

A feature of the closing sessions was the passing of resolutions referring to the excellent work

done for education by Dr. J. R. Inch, ex-chief superintendent of education; and Dr. W. S. Carter, the present chief superintendent, was congratulated on his promotion.

The following were elected on the executive committee: Principals Myles, Belyea, Owens, DeLong, Mersereau, Oulton, and Anderson, and Misses Thorne, Wilson, Belyea and Knight.

W. J. S. Myles, principal of the St. John high school, was the choice of the meeting for the vacancy on the senate of the University of New Brunswick.

A Family of Robins.

Over the front door of our house in the country a pair of robins built their nest in early June. It was a snug spot, covered by the roof of a verandah, quiet and free from possible enemies. On our arrival in late May we found a quantity of twigs and dried grass before the door. The robins had evidently made several attempts to build on the ledge above the door, but it was too narrow. Seizing a favorable opportunity when the birds were not about a shingle was nailed on top of the ledge, making surface enough to hold the nest. Then we awaited the result. A glass door, opening out on the verandah, commanded a full view of the lawn and the possible nest. The front of the house was used as little as possible and every opportunity was given the robins to become our tenants.

They were shy at first, studying our every movement from the branches of the trees in front. It was pleasant to hear their notes of question or caution, but never of alarm. They flew up to the ledge and appeared to examine it carefully. Then other consultations followed. They finally decided that it was just the place for them and began to build. The nest, composed of coarse grasses with an inner wall of mud lined with fine grasses and other soft material, was finished in two or three days. Then as much time was spent in further watchings before the precious eggs were laid. When their minds were once made up the work went briskly on. We thought it not wise to pry into the family affairs of our tenants too closely, so could not tell when the first egg was laid or the clutch completed. The female robin began sitting on the tenth of June.

Until the young appeared, some fifteen days later, the male robin did not visit the nest unless