

seize upon this mental desire for knowledge, otherwise it will fade away and a golden opportunity is lost.

Not only is nature study pedagogically sound, but it is also the very foundation of many of the other subjects we are called upon to teach. Much of geography is essentially nature study. I'm afraid, however, we do not always go to nature and the world outside to give our classes concrete notions in this subject. We have been too long adhering to the text-book and the classroom. In art much of the material employed is taken from nature, and the better a child is able to see and to interpret this material, the better will he be able to give expression to it. Much of the literature taught in the various grades abounds in nature pictures, and what child, who has never learned to examine and to verify these, will appreciate and enjoy the sentiments of the poet? The material for much of our work in composition may also be taken from nature study topics, thus, by correlation, it will prove a help in our ordinary school work and not a hindrance.

There is another and, in my opinion, the most important value of nature study, viz.: the influence it has on the character of the child. We emphasize character building, and rightly so, as the chief object of education. In no way, however, can we influence a child's character more than by giving him a love for nature, a love which will prove a solace to him when tired of the monotony of every day life. It gives a sympathy not only between teacher and pupil, but also with every living thing. The more we know of nature the more humble we must necessarily become—since a knowledge of nature lifts the veil of science, that unlimited field of knowledge, and makes us feel how very little we know. Not only does it make us humbler, but also kinder, more patient and more considerate. This may be said to be the æsthetic or emotional value of the subject; and who will deny that the æsthetic training of our pupils is daily becoming more necessary?

As this country grows older and becomes better settled more attention will be given to decorations and general improvements. Already in this city, the matter is assuming large proportions, in the efforts that are being made to make Ottawa the Washington of Canada. If the work is to be a success we must do something in our schools to help it along and to enable our future citizens to better enjoy their surroundings. We look upon the C.P.R. as a soulless corporation without a spark of sentiment or refinement; and yet, I notice that orders went forth the other day to have a flower garden at every station across the continent and seeds were distributed for that purpose. Think of the comfort, the pleasure, the solace that will come to many a