

gather each one for himself or herself a personal bit of knowledge, not possessed by anyone else, since it is drawn from the unfailing and ever fresh stores of nature. It is sometimes said that certain colleges turn out specialists, but they are specialists only in a narrow sense, that of having mastered the collected knowledge, which forms the stock-in-trade of that particular line of thought. Two specialists of this type, having absorbed an equal amount of this knowledge, will be as like as two peas. Thus they are turning out, not specialists but machines of a certain pattern, duly stamped M. A., B. A., L. L. B., etc., and for aught I know, patented as well" he was growing bitter as he proceeded.

"What then would you have instead of the present system?" the manager asked in some surprise.

"Why nature is the true specialist. She takes the young child in hand, not in classes mind you but individually, and leads them to observe the winging down of the autumn tinted leaves, the broad circling of the hawk high overhead, the tiny rootlets pushing out to meet the spring warmth and all her innumerable sources of information. She does this so kindly, so unconsciously, that the child never realizes that it is being educated, that it is being developed into a true specialist, true in the sense that its knowledge is at first hand, that it is not patterned after anything or anybody. You ask me what I would do. I would like to see every child in all the land spend their receptive years, say from four to fifteen, in the country and very largely in the open air. I would make their support compulsory by the parents when able to do so, and by the state, when the parents could not afford to do this. I would not break up homes of course, for nothing can atone for loss of home life, but consistent with this essential I would make the country a universal home for the young and plastic. Then there would be no more slums, no more degraded, savagely tyrannical men and women, for all would be truly educated, and to be educated in that way does not alone bring a sense of freedom in ourselves, but it causes us to seek to extend the same to all others. Then the reign of "man's inhumanity to man" would come to an end for good and all. No, Mr. Anderson, I cannot admit that even in the matter of true education, the city is equal to the farm. Restfulness, reflection, they are essentials of every well-balanced education."

"Yes, when you look at it in that light, the city does draw on our stores of energy too much. Even I, born and raised here, feel the drain of times and would gladly quit. But this has always been my home