

condary root-systems, and the stores of vegetables in any cellar always furnish specimens of modifications for the storage of food, and illustrate the distinctions between underground stems and roots.

The main facts in regard to the vegetative organ of the plant having been acquired, the approach of spring with its wilderness of easily-studied flowers affords abundant opportunity for the discussion of most interesting topics, such as the parts of the flower, the fact that all are modified leaves, the functions of each floral organ, and the purpose of bright colours and sweet odours. Methods of collecting, preserving and naming plants may now be demonstrated. From the first, however, children must be taught that the mere gathering and naming of plants is the least important part of the work. Plants should be known as friends, their characters and habits as well as their names being carefully studied. Pupils should be encouraged to take careful note of every interesting observation, to record the hours of the opening and closing of flowers, the first and last appearance of each species, the colours which predominate at various seasons, and the habitat of every plant examined. Such points as well as influences of soil, and exposure, the effect of cultivation upon species, and the distribution of plants may be best taught during excursions which every teacher should make with her classes. Superstitions, legends, popular names, the derivation of scientific names with the history and biography involved, and the economic uses of plants greatly add to the interest of the lessons. The study of botany may thus be made a pleasure and inspiration, and not the mere memorizing of a mass of dry technicalities.

A pupil, who has received such a preliminary training, will find it no hardship to make an herbarium during the summer holidays, but will take an unceasing delight in searching for forms new to him. Each wayside weed will enact for him an ever-fresh drama, his own home will supply an unending series of surprises, and romances well worth the reading will be found at every turn. The autumn will bring back to school enthusiastic botanists with larger collections than required, and with minds and note-books full of unanswered questions.

The work of the second year may begin with the study of the somewhat difficult families represented in an autumn