

nothing about the proportion of the kinds, or why a plant should be provided with two sorts of blossoms. There are many other points just as vague, hints as to which may be found in such works as Darwin's "Climbing Plants," Bailey's "Talks Afield," Prentiss' "Mode of Distribution of Plants," and Kerner's "Flowers and their Unbidden Guests." Enough, however, has been said to show that the way to discoveries new to science is open to even the youngest student. There is practically no limit to the papers that could be prepared by any of you for this or similar societies; papers both interesting and useful; papers of value to the scientific world at large; papers that any of our scientific journals would be only too glad to find room for. And here, in conclusion, I would say, that if within his means, and they are very cheap, no student of botany should neglect to take at least one of the periodicals devoted to the science. The "Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club," the "Botanical Gazette," and the "American Naturalist," are among the best. The first two are devoted entirely to botany, the last takes up other sciences as well.

If I have trespassed too much on your time, or wearied you with my effort to give an idea of how I think botany can best be studied, I pray you pardon me. Each of you who takes up this beautiful science will, I have no doubt, see modifications that you may think might be advantageously made in the method suggested. Should it be so by all means adopt them; the method employed is of little importance provided only it brings about the great aim and end of the study, which is to learn to observe and compare. Do this honestly and you cannot fail to become lovers of nature, and, being lovers of nature, better and happier men and women, men and women in some degree approaching that illustrious scientist of whom was said;—

"And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee,
Saying: 'Here is a story-book
Thy Father has written for thee.'

"'Come, wander with me,' she said,
'Into regions yet untrod;
And read what is still unread
In the manuscripts of God.'