

*Character of Presentative Material*—As regards the materials of Nature Study, it may be noted in the first place that many of the models offered for sale are very poor substitutes for the original object. The study of the singing bird in its natural habitat is likely to prove a much more attractive and helpful exercise (especially with beginners) than the investigation of the mounted specimen or the inaccurately colored picture "11-17 of the original size." However, in some cases, after he has failed repeatedly to obtain a close and continuous view of the flitting object of his investigation, the learner turns to a study of the school model with a due appreciation of its special advantages. At the beginning, out-door study is most valuable, and with proper preparation and care an occasional field excursion presents the best form of non-conventional Nature Study for the little child, and the most lasting results will be those gained from such outdoor study by the pupil without any immediate assistance from the teacher. Fields and woods are always accessible, the domestic animals, garden plants and flowers, birds and insects, the wonders of water, earth, air, forest and sky, are available in every locality, and all that is required is a sympathetic attitude toward nature, a genuine desire to investigate, and a few simple suggestions regarding the mode of procedure. I know a boy of 12 years of age who, with very slight preliminary instruction, has acquired a good working knowledge of all of our common local birds, their appearance, migration, nesting, song, adaptation etc., and has formed a close acquaintance with several of them. His interest in the subject is normal and wholesome, and his method of study quite ingenious, e. g., he never takes an egg except from a deserted nest and yet he has a fairly good collection. Making out-door investigation the starting point, the teacher soon finds that the children themselves bring specimens to the school for examination. Thus a collection of specimens for a cabinet is begun. As a rule children enjoy making collections, and there is a sense of proprietorship about such a possession which is a desirable factor and cannot be gained from bought specimens. The materials for definite study can very often be brought by the children, e. g., each child may bring a sample of the flower to be studied. There is no difficulty in securing a number of pet animals in a similar way.