

guage, they seem to hold secret communion with our minds,—he has not only given them for our food and clothing, but with kind, parental care, has, in them, provided powers to counteract and remove the diseases to which mankind are subject. For many years, plants were the only medicines known, or used, but modern discoveries in chemistry, by forming compounds of previously existing elements, have, in some degree, superseded their use. Although the science of medicine has received much additional light from chemistry, it may in modern days have occupied the attention of medical men too exclusively; inducing them to toil in their laboratories to form those combinations which nature has done more perfectly in the plants which they pass unheeded; for, in reality, the medical productions of the animal and mineral kingdoms bear but a small proportion to those of the vegetable. When our forefathers came to this country, they found the natives in possession of much medical knowledge of plants. Having no remedies prepared by scientific skill, the Indians were led, by necessity, to the use which nature offered them; and, by experience and observation, they had arrived at many valuable conclusions as to the qualities of plants. Their mode of life, leading them to penetrate the shades of the forest, and to climb the mountain precipices naturally associated them much with the vegetable world. The Indian woman, the patient sharer in these excursions, was led to look for such plants as she might use for the diseases of her family. Each new and curious plant, though not viewed by her with the eyes of a botanist, was regarded with scrutinizing attention; the colour, taste and smell were carefully remarked, as indi-

cations of its properties. But the discoveries and observations of the Indians have perished with themselves: having had no system for the classification or description of plants, nor any written language by which such system might have been conveyed to others, no other vestige remains than uncertain tradition, of their knowledge of the medicinal qualities of plants.

5. The study of nature, in all her forms, is highly interesting and useful. But the heavenly bodies are far distant from us;—and move they within our reach, are too mighty for us to grasp: our feeble minds are overwhelmed in the contemplation of their immensity.—Animals, though affording the most striking marks of designing wisdom, cannot be dissected and examined without painful emotions. Here, the Almighty manifests himself to us, with less than dazzling sublimity which it is almost painful to behold in his more magnificent creations; and it would seem that, accommodating the vegetable world to our capacities of observation, He had especially designed it for our study and amusement, as well as our sustenance and comfort.

6. The study of botany naturally leads to greater love and reverence for the Deity. It may not always produce this effect; for, unhappily, there are some minds which, though quick to perceive the beauties of nature, seem blindly to overlook Him who spread them forth; they can admire the gifts, while they forget the giver. But those who feel in their hearts a love to God, and who see in the natural world the workings of his power, can look abroad, and, adopting the language of a Christian poet, exclaim, "My Father made them all."

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## EARLY TRAINING.

CHILDREN are germs of an immortal growth, and the family the garden in which the Lord first plants them. Here they first taste the sunshine. Here they receive the earliest nature. Here the form and tendencies of their growth are determined. It is the law of the Bible and of Providence, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and he

will not depart from it." The law is laid in the constitution of our being, in the conditions of society, and in the provisions of the gospel. It is laid in the constitution of our being, for, in childhood we are most susceptible of all genial, kindly, and formative influences. It is laid in the conditions of society, for in childhood we are exempt from