

But in the first place as our pupils are not beings of pure intellect there are wants in their natures which cannot be satisfied by the intellectual results of science, and knowledge alone does not suffice for happiness. Moreover by the development and cultivation of the finer feelings we may prevent the minds of our young people from being taken up with many vulgar ambitions and pitiful vanities. Next to fine literature botany is the subject on our school programme along with which can best be given some measure of esthetic cultivation. Pupils should be taught not only to understand the matter they are dealing with, but to appreciate it, that is to feel it and to enjoy it, and so to be permanently influenced in character by it. Let us cease to regard a plant as merely an aggregation or organization of cells of various forms and functions. Let us anoint our eyes that we may see that a plant is a perfection of nature, a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Truly Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these!

Nature provides a rare pleasure for all classes of people whose minds have been turned to the observation of plant life as a source of interest and happiness. We cannot do a greater service to those who are soon going out of school into any sphere of life than to develop their tastes in this direction. Let our young people learn to look more and more for their pleasures to the woods and fields and the garden.

In that delightful and refreshing book "My Summer in a Garden" the author regards a common vegetable garden not only as a source of great pleasure, but also as a real means of grace, inasmuch as time spent there tends to the eradication of certain moral defects and the development of various excellences. No doubt Mr. Warner is right. Gardening recreates

the weary brain and revives the weary soul of the careworn man of affairs either in business or in professional life. Nor does it really matter very much in many cases whether the owner of the garden gets a money value out of it equivalent to the labor and expense he puts on it. He is well repaid in satisfactions of a subtler nature than money can buy.

The lives of our future farmers, too, would be much easier and pleasanter if in their school days they could get such instruction in botany and have such a direction given to their taste and observation that new interests would be brought into their lives and new pleasures gained from the objects that surround them. For many young men leave the farms and crowd into the cities and others remain dissatisfied at home because of what seems to them the entire unloveliness of their surroundings on the farm, and of any reasonable ground for interest therein.

The elements of beauty in plants are color, form, structure and adaptation of parts. Formerly botanists were inclined to ignore, if not to despise, color because it was of little or no service to them in classification. Yet leaves and flowers and fruits do not exist for the sake of classification alone, and, in many cases, color is the chief element in their beauty and in the pleasure they give to mankind. Now, too, when we know how useful to themselves and to us the bright colors of flowers and fruits are, in contributing to fructification and distribution, our pleasure therein is immeasurably heightened.

As to the appreciation of beauty in form there is a considerable measure of esthetic cultivation to be derived from the practice of making drawings from nature of the parts of plants. To be effectual in this regard, however, the work should be better done than is usually the case at the present time.