

and accuracy of observation, cautiousness in drawing conclusions, and in generalization, qualities most desirable in business life, are exercised, and become valuable mental discipline. Then, too, there is that forgetfulness of self, our natural selfishness is forgotten or laid aside when our thoughts are carried upward, and we become wiser and better.

The study of Nature tends to make us more social, in bringing together the different ranks and uniting them by a bond of common interest. Nature makes brotherhoods, and when banded to fish, to hunt, or in some common pursuit, men become fellows; caste and society's distinctions are ignored—man becomes the genus man; snobbery has no encouragement from Nature.

The right impressions of Nature and a cultivation of a taste for some branch of Natural History, may be made a recreation of childhood before life's more serious duties engross the energies and turn the mental, as well as the physical eye from our natural surroundings. Entomology, or the study of insects, proves particularly fascinating to the opening curiosity of children. Too often, children are taught to treat all insects as dangerous or horrible, and meriting avoidance or destruction. The sensible mother can, by her own demeanor and influence, avoid giving any such prejudice against harmless insects and easily explain why the hurtful kinds must be avoided. What ideas of beauty, of form, of coloring, of skill, of speed, of industry, and of character, can be developed from our common insects. The common fly which walks on the smooth ceiling by means of tiny suckers upon its feet; the household spider with its silken snares; the earthworm of our pavements and gardens, which turns over the soil and enriches it for man's use; the ants, many of which oppose barriers to the progress of civilization in some parts of the tropical regions, and the termites which have destroyed the written history of some provinces of South America; again the lovely butterfly that so gracefully flits about our gardens and fields—all furnish topics delightfully novel and attractive for our little ones, when wearied limbs bring them to our knee for mental refreshment. Make such a true story from Nature's fairyland of wonders, and the kindling, interested eyes, which regard you with so much pleasure, will soon make the discoveries necessary to verify your lessons,