

## NATURE STUDY—No. 1.

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By JAMES FLETCHER, Ottawa.

There is probably no subject which has so suddenly taken hold of the minds of educators, particularly during the last five years, as that which is now known in North America under the name of Nature Study.

It has been decided by the Publishing Committee, with the permission of the Editor, that a continuous series of articles upon the common objects of the country should appear this year in *THE OTTAWA NATURALIST*. It is believed that such articles will be found of value and interest both to our general readers and also to the many teachers and students who read the monthly magazine and attend our excursions. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is essentially an educational institution, and the officers are always anxious to make use of every opportunity of widening its scope of usefulness.

Much has been done in the schools of Ottawa by prominent members of the Club to foster a love for Nature. Mr. William Scott, now of Toronto, Dr. Sinclair and Mr. Putman, of the Ottawa Normal School, have always appreciated the great value of Nature Study in the science of teaching. Miss Bolton, Mr. D. A. Campbell, Miss Harmon and Miss Lee, Mrs. Ross, Miss Matthews, as well as Mr. Attwood and particularly Dr. Guillet, all of them experienced teachers, have recently made a special feature of stimulating an interest in school work of all kinds by using the attractiveness of natural objects to create a studious habit. Some of our leading newspapers, having recognized the trend of public opinion, have made arrangements for a special department of Nature Study in their columns. A series entitled "In Field and Wood" has already been begun in the *Mail and Empire*.

Nor have the educators in other parts of Canada lagged behind in adopting this important means of arousing interest, enthusiasm, and application among the boys and girls who are being trained to be her citizens of the future. In every Province of the Dominion something has been done or some provision has