

labors of a long series of enthusiastic and ardent lovers of nature who, in succeeding periods, carefully noted and accurately arranged and tested their observations, until we inherit as their descendants, the rich legacy of the accumulated lore of ages.

The infancy of Natural History was the recognition of surrounding objects, and the eager, childish desire to understand their relationships to God and man. Stories of animals from deep seas or foreign lands were treasured with wonder and delight, and this age of universal credulity known as the "legendary," was succeeded by that of the collectors and travellers who were able to refute or confirm, by their own observations, so much that was doubtful.

The great instinctive desire of the heathen and savage to worship the natural in his surroundings, who saw his deity in the sun or in the mighty rushing waters, or seemed to feel the supernatural in some living creature, must have been an evidence of God working in him for his development.

A knowledge of botany has existed from the earliest times, for the plants that so beautify the globe must have ever attracted mankind's notice. The wise Solomon "spake of trees," and the Egyptians and Greeks are known to have been the early cultivators of plants for their medicinal virtues. Aristotle, the great mind of Greece and the leader in all intellectual culture of his time, was especially a Naturalist, and his work on Natural History is not only a record of his own investigations but of all preceding knowledge in this department. He refers his readers to illustrations in anatomical text-books which seem to have been in familiar and general use 2,000 years ago. Pliny, of the Romans, added scarcely a fact to Aristotle's store.

A history of plants was written by Theophrastus, 300 years before Christ, but Dr. Brunfels, of Berne, restored the science to Europe in the 16th century in his "History of Plants."

The 16th century, which saw the occupation of the New World and a general impetus given to learning, is rightly regarded as the starting point of the modern knowledge of natural causes and of the natural sciences. The three following centuries have made great progress in developing the truths of Natural History.

The 16th century awakening of Western Europe led to active