

debt of gratitude it owes its insect friend, its struggle to maintain itself and thereby its kind, the adaptability of its leaf to its probable share of sunshine and air, and the marvellous ingenuity in its method of dispersing its seed, its care and provision for its young, its habits as regards soil, moisture, light, climate, and time to bloom.

These are some of the questions which afford material for the use of the senses and for the exercise at the same time of the best powers of the mind, and promote as much mental development as those subjects which are now considered the most valuable in our programme of studies.

Let me illustrate by our common flower—the Dandelion, which, though trodden under foot daily, is teeming with interesting problems for the student.

While in its bloom, it lies low in the grass and is careful never to push its head above the average level of its garrison of grass. If the grass is long, however, its flower is raised up also. It would be interesting to know how it succeeds in accommodating itself so well to its surroundings. It is easier to see the advantage it is to the little flower, not to be so low down in the grass as to be completely smothered, nor so high above it as to be exposed to the whim of every passer by who, like Domsie, might cut off its head with his cane on some occasion when his joy overcame him. When its seeds are ripened, it pushes its head away above its surroundings and invites the violence which will disperse its seeds.

The Dandelion flower expands in sunlight; closes up in gloom. The advantage of such an arrangement must be manifest to all; but it requires the most careful study to ascertain the way in which it opens and closes apparently at will.

The attractive coloring must suggest some points of interest. Is the yellow color associated with a flower of a low or high organization? What scale of colors is adopted by nature in the decoration of her handiwork? A study of the flower will convince any one that color has an important relation to the plant. It is visited by insects and some observation will disclose the fact that color is for the express purpose of attracting insects.

The question suggests itself—What advantage comes to the flower in being visited by an insect? What compensation is made