

conducive to health and cheerfulness. Botany is not a sedentary study, which can be followed in the house, but one the love of which compels its devotees to seek their amusement out of doors, thus to breathe the pure air where the objects of their search are to be found ; in the fields, along the winding brooks, on the mountain side, or in the cool depths of the forest. In every pursuit a certain amount of recreation and exercise is necessary for the maintenance of health, and walking is the means commonly employed to procure this. A walk taken merely as a duty is wearisome, but when indulged in with a definite and pleasant end in view it becomes delightful. As soon as one in his rambles begins to search for and collect any special class of objects he becomes interested, and marvels how he could formerly have been blind to so much that is curious and beautiful. To those who know anything of out-door life what a source of enjoyment it is to wander through the fields and woods. Each step brings some object of interest, or some new discovery ; a flower not hitherto noticed, or some familiar one showing variation from the common form ; a rare bird flitting from branch to branch ; or some brilliantly colored insect pursuing its erratic flight.

During the past thirty years the methods of teaching botany have undergone a radical change. As formerly pursued the study consisted mainly in learning from some book, the names of the different kinds of roots, stems, leaves and flowers. If plants were obtainable the scholar was perhaps made to run superficially over a few of them, and by aid of an artificial key determine their names. The terms used were hard and unfamiliar and there were no specimens to illustrate the lessons. Was it any wonder then that pupils acquired a disgust for the science ? Little or no field-work was attempted, and no thought was taken to promote habits of close observation, or to secure a knowledge of the mysteries of plant-life. By the new system of teaching, the special design of which is the training of pupils to fit them for original work, objects are studied before books, and the student is at once set to investigating and experimenting for himself.

To give you an idea of this modern method of teaching botany, I have made a short resumé of a paper on the subject by Professor Béal.