

PREFACE.

When the teachers began to teach the part of the new Course of Study relating to nature work, judging by the questions asked by Normal School students and numerous correspondents, many of them were confronted by difficulties over which the books available did not help them. An engagement to answer such questions, and to offer hints and suggestions on the Nature Study part of the Course has drawn forth the following pages.

Direct the children how and where to *collect the material*, guide their *observations and reasoning* upon what they bring, and teach them the *arts of expressing* the steps and results of their investigation. This general direction seems as simple as it is comprehensive; but in its application almost as many different problems arise as there are different lessons. No one can anticipate all these problems, but solutions of many of them are herein proposed.

The Nature Study teacher well knows the value of comparison. Any one using the course of study prescribed for his own province will derive much benefit from comparing it in detail and in entirety with the course adopted in another province. This little book may, therefore, prove as helpful to teachers outside of the Provinces whose regulations are quoted as to those serving within their boundaries.