

of rotten logs and the like. For perhaps more than two years he may live this terrestrial life, and breathe by means of his lungs, while the cells covering his throat and all the air passages become like those of all air-breathing animals. But he finally returns to the water, where the female deposits her eggs on the small leaves of water plants. He very soon loses his bright coloring, becomes grey olive, as you see him, loses the peculiar character of the mucus lining of his air passages, begins to breathe as a water animal, as he did originally. If you look closely at his back you will notice a row of small bright vermilion spots on each side, the vermilion spots being surrounded by a minute circle of black. For this reason he is sometimes called the vermilion spotted newt.

Until quite lately naturalists thought that the two stages of the life of this species constituted two distinct species. Speckled dark grey olive in water, it becomes red and even vermilion on land; but the bright yellow of its under parts in water, together with the red spots and the reddish tinge of the yellow, show always some connection with its peculiar land color.

S. What does it feed upon, and how can we keep it in order to study how it acts?

T. Keep it in fresh water, often changed. The presence of rotten wood in the water is not distasteful to it. Feed it occasionally with very small shreds of fresh meat; but do not allow fragments of the same to remain long in the water, as it putrefies and makes the water more or less injurious to its health. It naturally feeds upon small water insects. You may have something rising above the water, so that if he wants to take the air occasionally, he can do so. But be careful that he cannot climb up the walls of the vessel, or some day he will escape and be lost to you, and destroy himself by wandering into some crevice in the house where he cannot continue long to live. I had one, who apparently took a strong fancy to the land again, and, after some longing, actually scaled what was thought an impassable height and disappeared forever, leaving a lonely mate behind.

#### CLOUD STUDY.

An international committee of meteorologists are going to commence a special study of clouds in various portions of the world for one year, beginning with the first of May next. The committee may help to fix upon a good method of classifying and naming clouds. Our teachers who keep their eyes open to cloud phenomena during the year will be in a position not only to utilize the findings of the said committee, but to enjoy their whole report.

#### The April Sky.

The two greatest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, are well situated for observation this month. While Jupiter is slowly sinking in the west, Saturn is rising in the east, and, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, the observer, with a small telescope, may turn alternately from the belted to the ringed planet and enjoy the striking contrast between them. Jupiter is in the constellation Cancer, moving slowly eastward. It rises in the middle of the day and is well situated, west of the meridian, during the entire evening. Saturn is in Libra, a little east of the star  $\alpha$ . It becomes well elevated in the southeast by ten o'clock p. m. Mercury, which is in Pisces at the beginning of April and in Taurus at the end, is too near the sun to be observed. It passes behind the sun on the 17th, emerging afterward into the evening sky, where it will become visible in May. Venus is also too near the sun for convenient observation, although early risers may catch sight of it before sunrise in the constellation Aquarius, from which, in the course of the month, it will move eastward into Pisces. Mars also is an early morning star, being situated at the opening of the mouth in the eastern part of Capricorn and at the end in Aquarius, still nearer the sun. Uranus is in Libra, six or seven degrees southeast of Saturn, and Neptune is in Taurus, near the star  $i$ . \* \* \*

At the time of the conjunction with Jupiter, on the 20th, the moon will be near first quarter, and the conjunction will occur a little more than half way from the eastern horizon to the meridian. If the sky is clear, it should be possible to find the moon easily with the naked eye. A telescope directed to the moon at about three p. m., and swept carefully toward the south, will enable the observer to pick up Jupiter by daylight—a very interesting observation for an amateur. The planet, at that hour will be about two degrees from the moon, in a southerly direction.

The starry heavens are very attractive in April. Between nine and ten p. m., about the middle of the month, Sirius is flashing near the western horizon while the brilliant Vega is rising in the northeast. Nearly overhead shines the Great Dipper, and south of it appears the softly twinkling Berenice's Hair. East of the latter is Arcturus, a royal star in brightness and color, while between Arcturus and Vega glitters the pure white Spica in the constellation of the Virgin.—*Garrett P. Serviss in Scientific American.*

When one derides teaching and child-study it is well for us to remember that Aristotle said, "That the nature of everything is best seen in its smallest portions."