

easily found, with powers of slow but easily-watched locomotion, they attract more attention than the duller-colored and more sluggish, though more useful Mollusca, or the more active and shy Crustacea.

To the teacher there is no group of marine animals which can be made of greater use for teaching purposes. Not only are they interesting for the reasons we have already mentioned, but simply as objects of practical study they possess many advantages. Many of them are easily collected and preserved, and prepared specimens may be made to show more of the internal anatomy than is possible with any other group. Their comparative simplicity of structure and abundance of supporting hard parts make many of them better subjects for dissection than the Mollusca or Crustacea, and their larger size gives them an advantage over the Insecta. They are particularly well adapted, too, for the illustration of many general zoological principles. The habits of the shore forms can be quite easily watched and studied, either upon the shore (which is the best way), or in glass vessels in the school-room. Many simple and harmless experiments may be tried upon them which will teach most valuable lessons, not about Echinodermata alone, but about animal life in general. The mind of a pupil wisely led to observe forms as low as these, will be grasping, though altogether unconsciously, a truer perception of what Nature really is, and a broader sympathy with her workings in the world about him. Seeing in these simple creatures, so different from what he has been accustomed to associate with the name animal, characteristics in common with the higher animals, including himself, he must in his mind link closer together what before seemed far apart, must include in one category what before seemed different in kind, and thus will come a step nearer to that conception, grand and ennobling when fully grasped, the true basis of all scientific knowledge,—the fundamental unity of Nature.

That the proper kind of study of animals and plants affords the best means that we have of arousing and exercising powers of observation and inductive reasoning, is too