

instruct pupils. Others say our time is fully occupied with subjects that may not be laid aside, and where is the time for Botany?

Others again complain that they have no apparatus for prosecuting the study, no models, no charts, no microscopes. Still farther, we have the objection that the scholars have no text-books on Botany, and it would be impossible to have them purchase books.

Suppose these objections are perfectly valid. Suppose that every one applies to any particular school, could we not overcome them and find some means of teaching this subject. Let us examine the objections separately.

1st. *The teacher has but a slight knowledge of Botany.* Certainly a thorough acquaintance with the plants of our country would not be a burden to any one who would treat the subject; yet keeping in mind that we advocate teaching Botany in our schools not with a view to making the pupils Botanists, but with the intention of drawing out their observing powers, a teacher may do excellent work with a very slight knowledge of Botany.

A sufficient knowledge for our purpose may be obtained by any one who will thoughtfully read the little work entitled "How Plants Grow," or Botany for young people, carefully noticing figures and examining structures mentioned as illustrating the statements made.

II. School hours are fully occupied by subjects that cannot be displaced by Botany. It seems to me this objection might be overcome in some such way as this: the pupils would not willingly give an extra half hour one or two days a week.

Suppose it desirable to have two lessons per week in Botany, half an hour on two days, say Tuesdays and Fridays, commence by having Botany for the first week on these days, from nine to half-past nine o'clock, the next week let it be for some days only from 9.30 to ten o'clock, and so on, a half-hour later each week. In this way time might be secured for Botany without any other subject suffering to any appreciable extent.

III. No models, or diagrams, or microscope. Such are not required for our purpose, although they could be utilized. The whole field of nature is before us and any number of plants may be found with sufficient number of parts large enough to be examined by the naked eye.