

and general characteristics of sixty species and to make a careful and thorough study of one species as regards life-history, life-relations, care, etc. The invariable opinion expressed by the students is that they find the intensive study more interesting than the more extended observation.

From the standpoint of the learner, the actual knowledge gained is of genuine value, being in a very especial sense his own. It is probable, however, that what may be called the *indirect* results of such an investigation are really of most worth to the student. The attention is sure to be attracted to a thousand interesting phenomena which otherwise would have passed unnoticed. For example, in the foregoing investigation certain kinds of trees were found to be grouped in favorable places in their own special habitats. There was a preponderance of ferns, fungi and mosses on the northern exposure where there was least evaporation, and swamp plants were found in the lowest parts of the island.

Many other interesting phenomena in connection with soil formation, heat and moisture conditions, were similarly incidentally noted.

Further, in such study one is sure to become impressed with the fact that the investigation of sequential life-history is more interesting than the study of a cross-section. "What have we here?" is seldom as productive a question as "How did it get here?" or "Whither does it tend?"

While carrying on the foregoing investigation, such problems as the following naturally suggest themselves: "How were the seeds brought to the island?" "In what order did the trees appear?" "What other trees will come and how will they come?" "Will the struggle for supremacy leave conditions as at present, *e.g.*, will the poplar continue to rule the pine?"

The narrow limits of such a paper will not admit of further reference to the more fascinating and productive studies of structure, function and life-relations. The interest in such work is always cumulative, the Nature Study attitude soon becomes habitual, and after that all is clear sailing.