

c. Attraction rather than compulsion of learner.

A child with a healthy appetite craves wholesome food. The appetite is a guide in the determination of the kind of nourishment required, because foods desired and relished are generally needed by the child. Curiosity and interest are the psychological equivalents of appetite and relish and they likewise indicate the subjects that promote mental development. The time of interest is the time of opportunity.

That children are attracted by the "natural subject" needs no proof. Nature Study requires direction and encouragement, but never compulsion, as it contains its own propelling power. It is interesting because of its unceasing novelty, because it affords a means for the exercise of the self activities of the student, and because of the sympathy generated by intimacy with living things.

"And whenever the way seemed long
Or his heart began to fail,
She would sing a more wonderful song
Or tell a more marvellous tale."

d. The child rather than the book.

Previous to the time of Copernicus it was believed that the universe was geocentric; the Copernican theory teaches us that our system is heliocentric. As great a change will take place in our methods of teaching when we practically realize that it is the child rather than the book that is to be considered; that our educational system is no longer bibliocentric, but pædocentric. In the past we have prepared the subject that we wished to teach; in future, the child also must be prepared to receive the instruction. A person whose duty it is to attend to the purely physical welfare of a child does not say: Here is a certain amount of food to be eaten; how can I so prepare it that it can be devoured in the shortest possible time and with the least possible effort? She rather says: Here is a child to be nourished. Whence can I obtain food that will best promote healthy development?

Now what is the connection between this characteristic of the New Education and Nature Study? Study the child rather than the subject. Child study should precede subject study. The child being a natural product is an integral part of nature. Thus,