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**Articles : Original and Selected.**

**THE TEACHING OF BOTANY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.\***

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While the study of literature, which brings children into intimate relations with the great minds of all ages, must occupy the first place in a school curriculum, much time should be devoted to the study of "Nature's infinite book of secrecy." Satisfactory as it may be to know the population of the cities of the Dominion of Canada, and to understand the meaning of  $\frac{1}{16}$ , it is better to know living nature, to take an intelligent and sympathetic interest in animals and plants, and to find even in "a swamp a divine sanctuary." Of the many sub-divisions of nature-study, none is more easily taught than botany. Subjects for discussion are always available, and there is little difficulty in obtaining fresh material. It is easy to visit the homes of plants, to study their habits, their modifications, and their adaptations to environment. Specimens for purposes of comparison are readily preserved, and occupy but little space. Simple experiments, which may be performed in an ordinary school-room, illustrate the most interesting facts in regard to the life-history of plants and, though a compound microscope is useful for demonstrations, no apparatus except a pocket-lens is necessary.

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\* A synopsis of an address delivered at the last Convention of the Teachers' Association of the Province of Quebec.