

optional, whereas it should be compulsory for every pupil. The pupil at no stage of his school career should be left to chance for his sensory training, and this is especially true for those who live in cities. It is easy to persuade the pupil to do much for himself, to throw himself into contact with nature, to ramble through the woods, over hills, and along river banks, to leave the printed page and the burden of memory studies, and view the living face of nature in her wealth of objects, of phenomena and of landscape. The proper way to study nature is at first hand, and the proper way to train the senses is to use them on the abundance of material supplied by nature.

Besides the sensory training afforded by nature study there is a constant challenge given to the best powers of the mind, and there are supplied problems sufficiently difficult and abstruse to satisfy the most exacting.

It is a mistake to suppose that, for instance, the whole study of Botany is made up of technical terms and the collection of plants, giving them an unpronounceable name. Would Peter Bell, of whom Wordsworth tells us :

"A primrose by the river's brim
A yellow primrose was to him,
And it was nothing more,"

be roused from his apathy, by the information that "the primrose is a dicotyledonous exogen, with a monopetalous corolla and a central placentation," and by the statements of many other facts in similar technical language? Would his indifference not rather be tenfold increased?

Although technical terms are as necessary in Botany as they are in any science or trade to the workers therein, yet botany must certainly not be looked upon as a "modernized repository of classical roots and derivations."

The real object of the study should not be lost sight of. A profitable study of Botany would lead one to investigate the structure of the plant, the infinite variety in leaf and flower, the intelligent and useful arrangement of the parts of the root, stem, leaf and flower, the assistance of a neighbor and the dependence of a flower upon the insect, its allurements such as nectar and pollen heralded by color and perfume for the purpose of attraction, the