

NATURE STUDY.

The hints upon Nature Study in the Primary Department and elsewhere in the REVIEW for this month are so full and suggestive that we give up this space to a contributor who has something to say on this subject and says it well. The boy who stones birds or squirrels, the girl who thoughtlessly picks flowers from the wayside and strews them, wilted and forgotten, a few paces further on, needs to cultivate a wider sympathy and respect for the life in nature. The instinct of the boy with a stone or gun to kill something, or of the girl to pick something because it is pretty, needs to be repressed, not with a "don't," for that arouses antagonism, but with a tactful teaching, something akin to the spirit that induced the guardians of a public lawn to take down the sign "Keep off the grass" and put up the following in its place: "Every one who likes fair play will keep in the walk, and give the grass a chance."

Nature and Nature Study.

What is the tendency of Nature Study? Is it adding something to our enjoyment of life and taking nothing from it; or are we letting our new found interest in the subject lead us away from that old-fashioned love of nature, which the poet and the painter best interpret, but which even the most unlearned can enjoy?

Who now climbs the hillside, to see the distant hills rise into view with every step, and feels rewarded as his prospect widens. The landscape must be studied and analyzed, and the meaning of its geographic features well worked out. Who lies upon the beach in listless quiet, idly content to breathe the fresh sea air and to enjoy the rhythm of the waves? Or who, in the long summer days, dreams away an hour beneath a tree, soothed by the murmur of its leaves, and thinks the time well spent? Rather must he be alert to all the facts of his surroundings, and note them in the interest of science; or gather things that can be carried off, to classify and catalogue them for some future reference, and count his time as lost if something new has not been guessed or found. The world has moved. The painter and the poet may no longer be content to stir men's souls; they must satisfy the intellect as well.

Yet we have senses to which appeal the things

that cannot be counted and measured and reduced to rule. The beauty of a landscape can never be told or indexed, although it opens itself more clearly as the eye is trained to see. The joy of life is in living, not in knowing how we live; and all the senses minister to that enjoyment, however trained and disciplined they be, in ways that neither art nor science quite can understand. Not by instruction, but by sympathy, the real love of nature is attained.

In our holiday pursuits, then, or in our educational methods, are we doing well to let the study of nature lead the love of nature? Not so; unless our study of nature begins in the natural way, and the beauty and sublimity of nature first claim our attention. Art and literature may teach us to see and know something of what is admirable in nature; but the subtle appreciation of natural beauty is best acquired by contact with one who sees and knows. A landscape or a tree will not be beautiful to us because we are told that it is so; we must learn to feel its beauty. But we are so constituted that we enter into each other's feelings; and so the lover of nature still, as of old, unconsciously conveys to others, by his own appreciation, something of that nature love which no other training can impart.

The joy in life and the instinctive horror of death are a part of this untaught and unteachable love of nature; therefore it is a hopeful thing that so much of our nature study of to-day is the study of living things.

J. V.

THE HEAVENS IN OCTOBER.

This is the month to study an eclipse, although the hours are somewhat unfavorable. A total eclipse of the moon, visible in Canada and the United States, will take place on the night of the 16th and 17th. The moon enters the penumbra or partial shadow at 10.17 p. m. on the 16th; the total eclipse begins at 12.19 a. m. and ends at 1.48 a. m. on the 17th.

A total eclipse of the sun will take place on the 30th October, visible in eastern Europe and Asia, invisible in Canada.

Explain to pupils the causes of eclipses.

Jupiter is the planet this month that engages most attention. He is evening star and comes to the meridian soon after dark. The *Scientific American* is authority for the statement that "he is bright enough to cast shadows which can be seen faintly out of doors and easily in a darkened room when the planet shines in the window." Let some