

necessary one, and one upon which there should be less ignorance than at present prevails. Instruction on insect life is incomplete and insufficient if these important aspects of the subject are not carefully interpreted to the child, and apart from the inherent utility, the increased interest aroused in the child's mind is such that the lesson will be remembered far better than if a mere "nature talk" of the usual type were given.

It is impossible in a short article of this nature, the object of which is one of suggestion rather than of formulation, to indicate the numerous subjects which insect and animal life treated in this manner supplies. There has been far too great a tendency in the past to treat animal life in a really lifeless fashion, and in a merely descriptive and "object lesson" manner. The interrelationship, the methods of living and the functions of animals have been insufficiently considered. To the child they existed, but existence is a small part of life. A living creature is not individualistic, it is a member of a vast kingdom of living beings, striving for existence, preying upon each other and in turn attacked insidiously by enemies greater or smaller than itself; seeking to secure the best means for the continuity of its kind, which is their chief end and paying dearly for mistakes in judgment or action. Individualism is impossible in the world of living things, every unit of life is dependent on and bears some relation to others, and, therefore, to treat them independently is not only impossible but wrong. A diatom is a microscopic unit of vegetable life and interesting in itself, but how much more interesting is it when we know it is not only one of the land-makers, by the accumulation of its microscopic skeletal structures, but also an important foundation of our food, for upon it numerous small crustacea feed, these in turn are consumed by larger crustacea of the crab family, and on these fishes subsist, and in this way contribute to the food of man himself. It is very rarely realized how dependent we are upon the constant warfare which is taking place in the realm of insect life for even our own existence. Were it not for the enemies of insects, to escape from which the latter are constantly striving, we should be deprived of every article of food, and vegetation would not exist, but the activity of certain insects, which are parasitic on the insects destroying our crops and vegetation, keeps them in check and thanks to the habits of those species of birds which feed upon insects, a balance is maintained. If a certain species of insects, owing to a plentiful supply of a suitable food, increases out of proportion, it is almost invariably checked by a concomitant increase in its enemies. The importance of parasitic enemies in controlling these insects destructive to vegetation and in maintaining this balance is well illustrated