

7. Collection of Native Woods.—Its Usefulness and Value.

Speaking of the value and usefulness of collections of native woods made by pupils of a school, Dr. F. B. Hough, before quoted, makes the following practical suggestions as to how and why such collections should be made :—

“There is no school house in the country, whether in city or village or rural district, which might not have at slight expense an interesting collection of the native woods of the vicinity. These specimens should be prepared by having one or more faces planed and polished or varnished to show the grain of the wood when worked to the best advantage, and another face simply planed and left in its natural color. There should be some portion of the bark, and it would be still better if there were shown in connection with the wood dried specimens of the leaves and blossoms, the fruit, and the resinous or other products. Such collections made up by the scholars, and correctly labelled, under the care of the teachers, would become object lessons of first importance as an agency for instruction. They would afford the most profitable kind of employment for the leisure hours, and might awaken a love of close observation and a thirst for further knowledge that would ripen into the best of fruits.”
