

Friend"; "Cupid Forecloses"; "Superman"; "The Cup of Fury"; "Out Yonder"; "The Broken Melody"; "The Willow Tree"; "The Gay Old Dog"; "Heart o' the Hills"; "Evangeline";

"Stolen Orders"; "Comradeship"; "The Life Line"; "Help! Help! Police!"; "Easy to Make Money"; "The Hoodlum"; "The Four-flusher"; "Turning the Tables."

A PLEA FOR BOTANY

The great satisfaction I have had in teaching Botany for a score of years, is in the consciousness that the laws of plant life are also the laws of human life, and that the subtle realization of this is the best way to know ourselves. It is always better to eliminate the personal element in any generalizations worth while. For this reason, we discuss past history rather than the present. The Greeks and the Romans have given us our greatest lessons on government, and free from the petty quibbles of party politics. Our days, our hours and our seconds have been deduced from the stars. All that we know about the convolutions of the brain, nerve centres and ductless glands has been deduced from the **obvious similarity** of these organs in man and in the dog, or guinea-pig, on which vivisection has been performed. Our knowledge of the laws of heredity are chiefly based in the behaviour of Sweet Peas and other plants when crossed with marked differences peculiar to the species. In this laws of the plants as being also the newest realm of science we accept the laws of animals—both the laws of life. Why not then get to know ourselves through the interpretation of nature, all nature, the most beautiful and accessible being, the flowers, the seeds, —nature's reproduction and bountifulness.

"Look into the stream and see the starry beams,
And interpret that which IS by that which SEEMS."

In Botany, sex only means difference, and it is the blend of these differences that makes the wonderful variation and evolution in plants (and animals). In fact, hybridization seems quite a sufficient cause or explanation for Evolution, and is now the commonly accepted one.

A glance at botanical terms and analogy to animals flashes across the mind: fertilization, ovary, ovules, egg cell, embryo, germ, angiosperms, androecium, gynoecium, respiration, reproduction, polygamous, bi-sexual flowers, (hermaphrodite), unisexual flowers like the house begonia, hybrids, pure-breeds, inbreeding, pure line breeding, etc. These terms are not only analogous, they are homologous, the origin and evolution of the organs have been the same in both plants and animals. The stamens give stamina, the stigma stigmatizes. There are staminate Manitoba maples and seed-bearing Manitoba maples. Likewise there are two kinds of all poplars and willows which Noah forgot to mention among his pairs. These are simple things, the smallest child can see and perhaps understand, if not at once, then later, but let it be a natural realization.

The trees and the flowers are universal, clean and lovable. Let the young ponder on these things and they will wax strong in wisdom and in stature: "Fair as a flower, pure as a lily," yet knowing all things.