

"Things rather than books," must not be construed, things and not books. In nature, the development of the individual epitomizes the development of the race. The individual does not pass through *all* the stages through which the race has passed but short cuts are employed when advantageous. Here we have a hint as to the true function of books in education. The work of the young student should epitomize the work of investigators in general but it would be a ruinous waste of time and energy to perform all their researches. The spirit of Nature Study can be cultivated by first-hand investigation of a few facts. Such experience will enable the student to interpret and appreciate what can be more economically obtained from books. Books should be used to direct research, to obtain otherwise inaccessible information, to economize effort by utilizing the labors of others, and to correct or corroborate conclusions deduced from personal experience. A wise man learns through the experience of others. The student should do sufficient original work to enable him to interpret and in a measure appreciate, the results of the greater work performed by greater students. Books are the equivalents of Nature's short cuts.

*b. Causes rather than effects.*

The causal idea in education is slowly coming into prominence. Geography, for example, is being taught as *earth-study*, not as a study of a description of the earth. Formerly we studied merely the present form of the earth; now an effort is made to ascertain the relationship between the life history of the earth and its present form. Physical facts have significance and it is the business of the student to interpret a given condition and not to rest satisfied with the mere knowledge that such a condition exists. "Mere facts are dead, but the meaning of the facts is life. The getting of information is but the beginning of education... Not the fact, but the significance of the fact." In Nature Study children are encouraged to investigate the cause of a given occurrence. Varying conditions are introduced to modify natural causes and varying results are the consequence. The method of Nature Study is the method of practical life where events do not always happen logically and where varying circumstances must be constantly considered.