

NATURE STUDY—No. VIII.

THE PROPOSED COURSE IN NATURE STUDY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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At the annual meeting of the Ontario Education Association in Toronto last Easter, a draft of "proposed changes in the Public and High School Courses of Study" was submitted for consideration, and in all probability these changes (with minor modifications) will come into effect at an early date.

In this scheme it is proposed to make a somewhat definite course of Nature Study compulsory for all classes in Public Schools, and to insist that all Public School teachers take an extended course of training in Natural Science before entering the Normal School. This forward movement cannot fail to be of interest to every reader of *THE NATURALIST*, and in future discussions it may be of value to know something of the content and sequence of the Nature Study material which is to be dealt with in the Public School.

The following is a brief outline of the proposed Course of Study for the first four classes :

FORM I.

NOTE.—From the character of Nature Study, the course therein must be more or less elastic, and a selection should be made therefrom subject to the approval of the Inspector. The acquisition of knowledge should be secondary to the awakening and preserving the pupil's interest in nature, and to training him to habits of personal observation and investigation. The topics are suggested as suitable ones from which a course which will meet the conditions of the school may be selected ; but the treatment must be suited to circumstances, age, and experience of learners, and to the seasons of the year, accessibility of materials, etc.

Animal Life : Habits of pet animals, their care and food ; domestic animals on the farm, their care, habits and uses ; birds, their nesting, song, food, migrations in the autumn ; metamorphosis of a few conspicuous butterflies or moths.

Plant life : Work in school garden ; study of a plant, as a geranium or pansy, from slip or seed to flower ; caring for plants in pots ; buds, their preparation for winter, their development ; autumn leaves, collection, forms, tints ; economic fruits, collection, forms, how stored for winter, fruit as seed holders, dissemination