



CLEARING UP FOR VACATION—JUNE 27.

the different teacher's county conventions—a few teachers making desperate efforts to improve the occasion, and the many looking on with good natured tolerance. I was one of the many, seven years ago, when, at a meeting of the teachers of Carleton County, a teacher asked the chair for an explanation of the use of dormant buds on trees; one could feel the shock—discussion of dormant buds at a teachers' convention! The question might be an opportune one for every convention, only the chair need not restrict the discussion to trees. There may be some dormant buds in the profession. However, it is to the real teachers that these hints, imperfect, but well-intended, are offered.

The school garden is the proper foundation for Nature Study in the public school. Our Provincial Government has shown true interest in its encouragement of the school garden idea. An initial grant of \$100, a yearly maintenance grant of \$20, and a special yearly grant to the qualified teacher of \$30, with the germ of a hope of increase, should encourage trustees to

purchase necessary land and teachers to undergo preparation for the work.

Many teachers cannot take immediate advantage of these grants, yet by these teachers a splendid work can be done. Be content with small beginnings. I began with one little fuschia with six leaves, donated by a mother of that section. The section is barren indeed that cannot boast one successful grower of house plants, and if the teacher feels the lack of experience, ample information can be secured during a pleasant visit to such a home. In two years the little fuschia became a noble plant enjoying the company of fifty-eight other plants among which was a splendid collection of abutilons. I found it always in order to ask for "slips."

Perhaps a hint as to Arbor Day is not out of place. I well remember my first Arbor Day. I worked faithfully all day, as about thirty little witnesses could testify. Next year matters were reversed; there was but one witness and much mutual benefit resulted from the change. Of course Arbor Day suggests tree planting, but other things may be done. The grounds must be