

part of a liberal education, and to know the best means of imparting the same to those with whom they are brought in contact. To all such, both of those who are here to attend the winter session, and those who are present during the earlier part of the year, we can say most confidently that an attendance at the regular lectures of the winter courses, or at the regular outings of the summer and autumn, which may be said to extend from the 1st May to the 1st of November, will be time most profitably spent, and be productive, in most cases, of far better and higher results to those engaged in the work of teaching than the same time devoted to the study of some prosy text book. In this way, too, by opening some hitherto unexplored pathway among Nature's choicest treasures, and by awakening in the mind some new and hitherto unexpressed desire for a further and broader acquaintance with some of the more varied forms of matter, such a plan will, it is safe to say, tend to kindle the higher and nobler part of our natures and enhance our capacities for enjoyment tenfold. True it is that all dispositions do not regard the study of the natural sciences with the same feeling of delight. To some there is, unfortunately, no enjoyment in the contemplation of the beauty presented in the unfolding rose, or in the flight of the delicately tinted butterfly. To some, also, the study of the fossils embedded in the rock, or the contemplation of the wonders seen on every hand, does not raise the mind to the consideration of the grandeur and condescension of that Master designer of the universe that has fashioned all things with such wondrous art, and created for man's enjoyment such wondrously beautiful things. But in so far as the teaching portion of our community is concerned, I believe there is no way by which those so engaged can exercise so beneficent an influence on those entrusted to their care as by frequent short excursions over the neighboring fields; by unfolding to them the beauties of structure displayed in every opening flower, by showing the wonderful convolutions of the many dainty shells which, though more rare than the flower, can also be easily obtained, the increased necessity for closer search, serving often but to enhance the pleasure of the discovery. What, for instance, can be more interesting than to study the habits of some of our most common insects, to watch the various evolutions of our common ants, to note the gorgeous colors and graceful flight of som