

the most energetic,—and the Entomological Society of Ontario, with its branches in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Guelph and Vancouver. The influence of these Societies was quite marked, as many of the members were persons of note in their respective districts, and many young men received their first impetus to study nature at their meetings. Besides, the annual reports of some of these Societies, containing illustrated articles, were distributed freely throughout the country, diffusing much useful nature knowledge among the people.

While the Natural History Societies were quietly diffusing useful knowledge among the masses, and inspiring many persons with a desire for the study of nature, the Science teachers of the High Schools and Academies were also opening the eyes of their pupils to the wonderful things of Nature. For many years, it is true, the biology course as laid down in the syllabus for high schools did not tend to make nature students; but in later years the courses were more rational, and many young persons were roused to take an interest in natural history. The great majority of the Science teachers are enthusiastic nature students, and are doing much to encourage the newer movement by their personal work and influence.

The Normal Schools have for many years given courses in Science, but perhaps with too little emphasis on the biological side, with the result that the teachers on graduation were but slightly interested in the great nature-world around them. For the last five or six years, however, more attention has been given to Nature-Study, and most of the new teachers now begin their work with a high opinion of its educational value. To such men as Dearness, Elliott, Scott, Sinclair, and Brittain of the Normal Schools we are indebted for the development of the pedagogical side of Nature-Study, and for their efforts in demanding the rightful place for Nature-Study on the school curriculum.

One of the most potent agencies for the spread of the Nature-Study idea throughout the country was the Ontario Agricultural College. For more than 30 years it has stood for a careful study of Nature and Nature's processes as an essential factor in successful agriculture, and it has strenuously insisted that such a study is one of the very best foundations for general culture. The