

during the summer season, would derive an amount of pleasure from the pursuit, little dreamed of by those who have never given it a thought.

Natural History properly defined is the study and classification of "the various organisms, habits, or instincts of the manifold animal and vegetable productions existing on the surface of the earth, and the waters beneath the earth." In fact all the laws by which nature is governed come under this head. According to Pliny the Elder, "Natural history is the physical description of the world."

To learn all that there is to be learned about any country, more especially that which we inhabit, and which most of us call home, should be the aim of every well informed person.

Of course it cannot be expected that any one individual should become fully acquainted with every branch of this enchanting science; that would be too much to expect. Still there are a great many who could aid in some way to increase our knowledge of the Natural history of our island, of which we really know so very little at present.

Many persons are inclined to regard such studies as mere fads, or little better than waste of time, yet they have their utilitarian aspect, and were everyone all the world over, to regard them in the above light, the world would be the loser to a very great extent.

Doubtless many of us have felt somewhat chagrined at times when questioned by intelligent strangers on matters pertaining to our fauna and flora, at our inability to give satisfactory answers, or even afford mere ordinary information, such as would be expected from an educated person.

In the beautiful words of the poet Wordsworth, you will find: