

given to teachers who could take this extra time, for which a special diploma and prize were awarded, and an additional provincial grant of \$100 when they were engaged in teaching in an efficient rural school. This idea has been carried out in a fuller manner by Dr. James W. Robertson, director of the Sir William C. Macdonald Rural School Fund, when \$175,000 were donated to build the Macdonald Institute of Nature Study, etc., at Guelph, in Ontario, and additional funds were provided for Nature Study teachers and school garden demonstrations.

For about twenty-four years the idea has been in the public course of study, developing gradually from morphological to biological observation—from the observation of forms to the observation of action. For a number of years records have been made of the biological and meteorological facts capable of being accurately observed by pupils and verified by teachers, such as the dates of first flowering, leafing and fruiting of plants; the migration of birds; thunderstorms, frosts, high and low water, etc. These have proven so valuable as scientific records, that for some years they have been annually compiled into averages for the different regions of the province as well as for the whole province. The schedules have to some extent been utilized in the other provinces of Canada, and a similar system has been introduced in imitation of it into some of the schools of Denmark. The main object of the scheme originally was to give some objective work to the pupils on their way to and from school, to be reported to the teacher in school. These schedules are being carefully bound up into annual volumes, for the benefit of future students of climatic and ecological conditions in the province.

In the provincial course of study special directions are given for each of the eight grades of the common schools. The general directions published in each school register give in brief form the substance of the *special* directions published annually in the "Journal of Education," which is the official bulletin of the Department, sent free twice a year, in April and October, to each school board in the province. These general directions, which indicate the view taken by the Nova Scotia Education Department of the character and importance of this elementary work in the public schools, are as follows: