

systematic instruction is impossible, it would be far better to omit botany altogether from the school courses. In some cases botanical and horticultural societies are doing excellent work in this direction and the local natural history society, if it is not possible or desirable to directly conduct classes, may, by its influence, lead the city or town school board into the paths which should be followed. What one horticultural society has done may be learned by reading the reports of the successful work of the children's garden committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Boston.

Merely pressing and naming plants is not of itself studying botany, it is, literally, the driest part of plant study and, often, if forced to do this work, the boy or girl becomes disgusted with the whole subject.

A very good way of interesting children in botany, available to city children as well as to those living in the country, is to encourage them to become familiar with the trees growing in the streets, to know their names, their nature, to observe them and to write accounts of them and their varied conditions throughout the year, in winter as well as summer. The herbarium, if one is to be made, might take the form of the life history of a single species. Assign to each boy and girl a different tree, or let groups of children study one together. At the end of the season each little collection should contain the seedling plant with the roots, a branch of leaves, a sheet or more of different forms of leaves, the flower,—of both sorts if there are more than one,—the fruit in its different stages. A specimen of the wood of each tree should accompany the sheets of pressed leaves and flowers showing the grain in section, lengthways and across, together with the bark. Such a collection, if carefully prepared and neatly mounted, would be a valuable accession to any local museum, while the written reports would serve admirably as exercises in English composition. Other groups of children could collect the insects found upon the trees, those which come to fertilize the flowers and those which are the enemies of the trees.

A grave mistake is often made in neglecting to interest young persons in local societies and museums by giving them places of