

Some claim our pity and protection. With such sentiments aroused, a favorite walk never loses its charm, and each conspicuous plant along the pathway soon becomes a familiar acquaintance, in whose fate we are concerned, and whose death or injury brings to us a sense of personal loss.

(6) In noticing either the forms or the habits of a few favorite wild plants, we soon become interested in others, and will want to know their names, so that we may speak or write about them to others who are interested, and hence we find a new field of study, and pleasure in learning to identify and classify them. (This is what is chiefly dealt with in our botanical text-books, but it is neither the beginning nor the end of botany, and if ever a pupil finds this study of botany dull and irksome, it is because his teacher allows him thus to begin it in the middle and end nowhere.) There is no better training in habits of observation and discrimination than is to be found in the determination of species, either of animals or of plants; and the plants offer this advantage, that you may usually know where to put your hand upon a specimen when you wish to study it, an important matter if you wish to make a serious study of your subject, and nothing of course is worth studying in any other way.

(7) Knowing plants by name, we may then begin to study their geographical distribution. This will be found very interesting in itself, and much more interesting when we know that just such information as we or any collector may furnish about the occurrence of species in a certain locality is eagerly looked for by scientific men for its bearing upon some of the deepest problems of geographical botany, and may do more to determine for them some point in dispute than any study of the plant itself. Is there any practical benefit in all this?

If field botany furnishes good exercise, a good mental discipline, and an insight into the beauties of nature, what more do we want? Nevertheless it has a much more practical bearing upon the affairs of everyday life. Your net cash return, if that is what you seek, is likely to remain a minus quantity, but the public benefit that may arise from a fuller knowledge of the flora of our land is not inconsiderable.

Working botanists some time since reached the opinion that a knowledge of the indigenous plants of a district was a safer key to its agricultural capabilities than any meteorological observations or chemical analysis of the soil could afford; and this opinion is now being accepted and acted upon to some extent both in Canada and in the United States. The juneberry, or shad-bush (*Amelanchier*), for instance, is known in the Northwest Territory as saskatoon; and

it has been noticed that wherever the saskatoon berries grow wheat will ripen. The extension of this idea promises to save much useless expenditure of time and energy, and direct new settlers at once to a proper use of their lands.

One of the saddest sights in New Brunswick is a certain bare ridge near the centre of the province, lifting against the sky at regular intervals a row of ruined chimneys, marking the sites of houses long since deserted because the settlers found that their land was unfit for cultivation. Might not an examination of the native plants have told an expert that the original forest growth of that ridge was the only profitable crop it could ever be made to produce? And if by a knowledge of our flora we can ultimately decide what part of our wild lands should be cleared for crops and what part left in forest, it will be of inestimable benefit in the development of our natural resources, and in compiling and preserving lists of the local flora, and records of the times of flowering of certain plants, the teacher may feel that he is doing a work that will benefit others as well as himself; and by writing to the editors of *THE REVIEW* on the subject he may learn how to communicate the results of his observations so as to make it a part of the organized work of the Botanical Club of Canada.

J. VROOM.

St. Stephen, N. B.

To the Editor of The Educational Review,

Dear Sir:—Will you kindly give me space in *THE REVIEW* to correct an error which appears on page 53 of my Annual School Report for 1893, in regard to the number of inspectoral visits made during the year ending June 30th, 1893. The mistake was made by one of the clerks counting only the number of schools visited and not the number of departments in each school. The following is a corrected statement of the number of inspectoral visits made by each inspector, including the number of districts reported as having no school at the time of the inspectoral visitation:

District No. 1.	.....	350
" " 2.	.....	374
" " 3.	.....	336
" " 4.	.....	454
" " 5.	.....	422
" " 6.	.....	376
Total.	.....	2312

Yours truly,

J. R. INCH,

Chief Supt. of Education.

Education Office, Fredericton, N. B.
March 28th, 1894.