

of things surrounding him, of which he perhaps makes daily use or could do so, and from which he might be able to derive enjoyment if he were able to understand, know or at least properly observe them. So, there can be no difference of opinion as to the usefulness and necessity of Nature Study. But, regarding the ways and means of it, there is as yet no concurrence of opinion. And it is the object of this paper to state some underlying principles for Nature Study as the writer conceives it, whether it is carried on professionally or in an amateur-like manner, and whether much or little time can be devoted to it.

In the first place, Nature Study must not be looked upon and taken up as a *fad*. Ours is eminently an age of fads. Faddism is carried into every branch of human activity. If one takes up Nature Study, or any other study, as a fad, as a passing whim of fashion, as an affectation of some people, he or she thereby debases such study, debauches the mind and intellect, and squanders time and money. No, it must be looked upon as a study requiring earnestness of purpose, all powers of mind and body while carried on, devotion and application to it, also patience and resourcefulness. Whoever does not want to undertake Nature Study in this way, had better not begin it at all, or at least not call his weak dabbling with science and nature or his more or less purposeless rambles, Nature Study.

As is necessary in most undertakings of men, a student of nature must not begin his work at random, in a purposeless and ever-shifting way, but there must be method and system in his work, be this much or little. To attempt to carry on Nature Study without this would be as foolish as trying to build a house without plan or fixed idea. As a few most necessary principles underlying the system and method of the study of nature, I would submit these, viz.: *Limitation, concentration, exactness*, and after all this, the making *accessible* to others of the results.

So, first, there is *limitation*, i. e. that a student of nature, professional or otherwise, confines himself to certain limited areas of investigation of objects offered us by nature. Life is too short, even for one who can give *all* his time to this, to take up all the fascinating problems that ask for solution in the realm of nature. So, if a lover of this study would plunge himself into it headlong,