

fellow creatures are thus more kindly treated as they deserve to be, and we are enormously benefitted.

9. Truthfulness. The uniformity of habit to be found in all the individuals of every living species of plant or animal safeguards accuracy in recording observations. Any departure from truth, unconscious or otherwise, is sure to be detected by those better informed, or to be exposed by subsequent investigators. Added to this, the great mass of unrecorded facts in connection with almost every branch of study demands the greatest care in seeing and in recording every observation precisely as it appeared to the investigator. This cannot but foster habits which must produce that greatest of all virtues—strict truthfulness.

10. Healthful recreation. As a source of healthful recreation both for the teacher and the scholar, the advantages of examining and studying natural objects are at once apparent. Students who have had their attention strained by abstract teaching, will find a welcome relaxation in observing things coming under their senses, and as the natural place to examine these objects is where they occur in a state of nature, the student is led away from the school and his books into the open air of the fields and woods.

There is, moreover, another side to this picture, *viz.*, the æsthetic and moral use of these studies, which bring before us only what is always true and perfect and which can produce nothing but reverence for the great Author of all things. How beautifully has the poet Keble expressed some of the ideas I have tried to lay before you in the verse—

“ Nothing useless is or low :-
 Each thing in its place is best,
 And what seems but idle show,
 Strengthens and confirms the rest ! ”

“The rest”—ah, what is that “rest,” and how full of meaning is that one word, perhaps there almost accidentally used? That rest is the charming field, exquisite in detail, which forms the magnificent panoply of nature around us, and which belongs to all, to you, to me, and to everyone who will enjoy it. Mother Nature is no hard mistress. She gives but one command before delivering up the free title deeds to this rich domain, imposes but one condition:—“Look and see, study and understand.” That rest of creation referred to by the poet is partially revealed by what strikes the eye when we look across the broad landscape of nature, stretched around us with lavish hand, which appeals to our senses and calls forth our best instincts, be it in dewy,