

The purpose of the book is "to aid the reader in acquiring a knowledge of the science of agriculture, as distinct from the art of agriculture, that is, a knowledge of the 'why,' rather than a knowledge of the 'how.' The science of agriculture may be said to consist of a mingling of chemistry, geology, botany, entomology, physiology, bacteriology, and other sciences, in as far as they have a bearing upon agriculture. The aim has been to include but the first principles of these various sciences and to show their application to the art of agriculture. . . . An intelligent understanding of the science underlying the art of agriculture will add much interest to what is otherwise hard work, and as a natural consequence, the pleasure of such work may be greatly increased."

Every day the fact is being recognized more and more that the elements of those sciences which underlie all progress in every branch of agriculture must be taught in the Public and High Schools of the country. Already simple nature studies and the first steps in chemistry and geology are taught in the schools of Manitoba and Ontario, and these studies have proved to be not only of use and attractive to the students, but a ready means of creating a bond of sympathy between the teacher and his pupils; more especially has this been the case with those energetic and restless souls too often now called "bad boys" more, perhaps, from lack of understanding or skill in management on the part of the teacher than from a superabundance of real badness on the part of the taught. Boys play truant because they find more to interest them outside the school than at their desks. If therefore the things which appertain to out-of-doors can be brought inside the schoolroom without robbing them of too much of their outside flavor, they will be a sure bait to catch the attention of all bright healthy boys and girls. Their study will arouse interest at once and the habits of concentration, power to observe and compare, and the necessary development of the faculties of exact thought and accurate description will be available for all other branches of study with which the pupil is engaged.

This book may be used as a text-book in High Schools and Public Schools. It would be well indeed for Canada if its use were made compulsory in every school in the land. The great truths laid before the reader are presented in a simple straightforward manner intelligible to all. The subjects are so skilfully arranged and concisely stated that a surprising amount of accurate information is given in this small octavo of 200 pages. The value of this simple knowledge to practical men is not, I believe, overstated when I aver that if all the farmers in Canada would read this little work, as they most certainly should, its appearance would mark an epoch in the history of the Dominion, which would be made manifest to all by an enormous increase in the crops and wealth of the whole country.

The scope of work is shown by the following brief epitome of subjects: Part I. treats of the Plant, its development, structure, food and functions; Part II., Soil, its nature and treatment; Part III., Crops of the Field; Part IV., The Garden, Orchard and Vineyard; Part V., Live Stock and Dairying; Part VI., Bees, Birds, Forests, Roads and the Home.

In these different sections the insect and fungous enemies of crops are treated at some length. This little volume is bound in cloth and well got up; although some of the illustrations are rather roughly executed, it is on the whole most excellent and for the price, 25 cents is a marvel of cheapness.—J. F.

THE WINTER FOOD OF THE CHICKADEE, Bulletin 54, New Hampshire College of Agriculture, by Clarence M. Weed—There is something particularly charming about those confiding little feathered denizens of the woods which brave our cold northern winters and stay to cheer us at a time of the year when there is so little animated life. The Chickadee or Black capped Tit-mouse (*Parus atricapillus*) is at once one of the most cheerful as well as one of the most useful of our common native winter birds. What a bright, busy, happy sight is presented by a flock of these little friends; for they are all friends these little balls of black satin and grey down, they are far too busy and well employed to waste time in fighting. Satan has a hard time of it in "some mischief finding" for these little fellows to do, for their hands are never idle, as they hurry