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## THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF NATURE STUDY.

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"All things are artificial; for Nature is the art of God."

—*Sir Thomas Browne.*

"New occasions teach new duties;  
Time makes ancient good uncouth;  
They must upward still and onward  
Who would keep abreast of Truth."

—*James Russell Lowell.*

Nature Study is the *natural study*. Children are naturally naturalists. The earliest educational instrumentalities for both the individual and the race are the objects in their natural environment. When a reason is demanded for introducing another subject into an already crowded school programme, a pertinent question to ask would be: Why stop Nature Study when the child enters our schools? The onus of proof rests on those who would cease teaching nature when school-life begins. The Kindergarten is intended as a continuation of the natural method into school life, and is now an established feature of our educational system. Again, we might ask, Why stop Nature Study when the child leaves the Kindergarten?

In our High Schools natural science has passed the experimental stage, and now no serious student can claim to have a liberal education who is ignorant of the great principles revealed by scientific research. The most important part of a student's course, that of the Public School, does not yet officially recognize the educational value of first-hand knowledge. Should we not

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