

colored and smooth, but when old it becomes dark, scaly, rough and deeply furrowed, and then assumes a gray brown. Greenish lichens are often seen in patches upon the trunks of old trees in the forests.

The leaf of the rock maple is easily distinguished from the others as it has no tiny saw teeth on the margin. This long stemmed leaf has five divisions, not deeply cut, and the notches between the lobes are curved. During these fall days the foliage on many of the rock maples is a clear straw yellow, on others it is a light red with orange tints. This gorgeous coloring depends upon different conditions of temperature and moisture. In old England there is no brilliant foliage to compare with that in the United States and Canada.

The fruit is of a pale yellowish green. The seed, ripening in September, is too late to grow little seedling trees the same season. The wings of the seed are about one inch long and are slightly curved towards each other.

The wood, of a yellowish tint, is much used in cabinet work. It is hard, compact, tough, fine grained and, as it takes a high polish, a satin-like lustre, it is greatly valued for interior finish in buildings and for furniture. When the fibres are knotted or twisted we get the beautiful "bird's eye maple." The wood is valuable for fuel.

No tree is more attractive to children than this sugar maple, for its sap, drawn upward and compelled to fill the long rows of buckets in our groves, soon yields the longed-for maple sugar. How many children have stood before these tapped trees counting the seconds by the drops that fall! Four gallons of sap will yield about one pound of sugar. One tree often yields thirty gallons of sap. Many of these trees are tapped annually for forty years.

To be able to distinguish these three varieties, regardless of the striped maple with its downy leaves so finely pointed and its striped bark and the mountain maple with its coarsely toothed leaves and small fruit widely separated, is to awaken new interest. After studying these ask such questions as:

What seeds ripen in early summer?

What species are valued as timber?

How is the white maple distinguished from the red maple?

Which maple has the most shapely and deeply-cut leaves?

Which maple leaf is without saw-teeth margins?

Which maple bears the largest leaves?

Which maple has the smallest fruit?

Which has the brightest leaves?—*Intelligence.*

BIRDS.

NO animal displays so much power and instinct in its distant excursions as the bird; these have something really prodigious in them. It is only by the aid of accurate instruments and knotty calculations that the sailor trusts himself upon the sea, whereas our winged travellers, without guide or compass, and without ever losing their way, transport themselves from

the polar circle to the tropical regions. The cranes pass the summer on the stormy sands of Scandinavia, and the winter amid the ruins of the palaces of the Pharaohs.

The mechanism of birds is admirably suited to aid their rapid flight. Their aerial oars, moved by muscles of extraordinary power, easily adapt themselves to all the hazards of their pere-