

PREFACE

IN placing this manual before Canadian teachers the authors do not feel that it is necessary to advance any plea for Nature Study. It finds its justification in the conditions of modern society, and rests upon the same psychological basis as Manual Training and Domestic Science. The necessity for Nature Study has been recognized by the most advanced educators both in Canada and the United States, and it is only a matter of time till it will find a permanent place among the subjects of study.

The value of any subject of study must ultimately be judged from a social standpoint; and Nature Study must prove an important agent, not only in training the faculties of the individual, but also in making him acquainted with the elementary material and the processes upon which our whole social life depends. It is upon this phase of Nature Study as a socializing agent, that we desire in this manual to lay the greatest stress; and the teacher must not lose sight of this side of the subject if he desires to give vitality to his presentation.

It has been impossible for us within the limits of this manual to indicate in detail the various ways in which Nature Study may be of assistance in the teaching of other subjects, composition, geography, etc. On its social side it is related to every subject of the school course, and the points of contact will readily suggest themselves to the teacher.

Part I. of the manual has been devoted to the outline of a field of Nature Study and to the presentation of the main facts regarding the different forms of animal and plant life.

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