

mals and plants is of far greater benefit to them than the collecting of masses of specimens of which they know but little.

It may be treading upon dangerous ground and, perhaps, outside the limits of this paper, but in a great majority of instances it seems evident that the inclusion of the making of herbaria in the regular work of our schools, where prizes are frequently given for the largest and best arranged collections of dried plants, is of very questionable desirability.

As a matter of convenience, the botanical instruction is too often assigned to teachers, perhaps excellent in other branches, who have no knowledge of botany and who can not interest the scholars in the subject or aid them in their work. Valuable study hours are wasted, usually just at the close of the school year, and other work neglected. It may be that one hundred small collections of dried plants are made. Individually they are valueless but collectively they represent the up rooting of a great number of native plants, often rare ones, without any gain to the scholar or the school. This work as conducted in most of our schools can not be defended as a necessary part of any educational system, nor does it in any way bring the students into touch with nature or lead to a knowledge of her ways.

A single new species of plant added to the local museum collection would be of more value than the entire mass of school herbaria and a greater honor than to win a prize for the best school collection.

The school garden is a far better way of interesting children in botany. The children may be taught to raise their own specimens and, meanwhile, study the germination, leaf and flower morphology, the methods of fertilization and the insect aids, and the development of the fruit.

The work should, of course, be done under the guidance of a competent instructor who could outline the course for the regular teachers and supervise the instruction in all of the schools of a city or in two or more contiguous towns, as is often done now by special teachers of music and drawing, a method already shown to be successful and economical when applied to the care of the roads in adjoining communities. If a near approach to