

### Nature Study for February.

Do your pupils know how the common garden seeds look? Don't laugh at the absurdity of the question—there are city bred boys in colleges to-day who don't know beans from corn! Why should they? It is interesting to examine and compare some of the common seeds obtained from a seed store, or from packages of garden seeds left over from last year at the children's homes. Take radish, onion, lettuce, melon, squash, corn, peas, cucumber and celery; after learning to recognize them by sight it is well to taste them. Have the seeds any of the flavor characteristic of the vegetable? Some seeds have more taste than the plants that produce them; mustard, for example. Do sage seeds taste like sage? Children will wonder that such tiny seeds produce such large plants in some cases.

Make bird houses now. If you wait till March you are almost sure to be too late. No better way can be devised to interest children in birds. No surer way has been discovered to bring the home-loving birds back to our door-yards than by providing nests for them. Get up a friendly competition amongst the bird house makers. Encourage the girls to use their ingenuity. Remember that fresh paint is not attractive to birds. Interest the parents in putting nests up in door-yards. What if "only a robin" builds in yours? There are several little things you haven't seen a robin do yet, in the matter of house-building and house-keeping. Write down six things you and your pupils want to see the robins actually do—then don't forget to watch. There's only one way to keep a "natural" boy from throwing stones at birds—and that is to get him to care for birds. One of the surest ways is to start the bird-house fashion. Purple martins are becoming more common than formerly, and bluebirds quite numerous.

Does the ground-hog (or woodchuck, or bear) really venture forth on Candlemas Day? What is the origin of that tale anyway, and is it a myth or a superstition?

Has the making of willow whistles gone out of vogue in this advanced age? Are you old-fashioned enough to know how to make one and new fashioned enough to know why the bark may slip to-morrow

although it wouldn't slip yesterday. Get someone to show you how to make a willow whistle. There is a bit of handicraft, something of sound science, and not a little botany to be learned from this homely pipe. What can you make of it, if not yet, then after the twigs of willow begin to turn yellow and the sap to run with first breath of real spring wind?—*Selected.*

### Quotations for February.

Each morning sees some task begun,  
Each evening sees it close;  
Something attempted, something done,  
Has earned a night's repose.

—*Longfellow.*

Don't say: "There are no chances."  
When you're looking 'round for work.  
A man of pluck advances,  
But excuses mark the shirk.  
Just you make a place and fill it,  
Be certain you will win.  
A hole is wanted? Drill it;  
You'll—fit—in!

—*Leslie's Weekly.*

As quickly as they pass your hand,  
Forget the favours that you do;  
If you remember you'll demand  
That they be done again for you.

—*Selected.*

Brace up, old man, never despair;  
Life has some joys in it yet—  
You may never be rich, you may never be great,  
But carry your head like a ruler of state—  
Don't sorrow, don't grumble, don't fret.

—*Arthur Gray.*

Pull away cheerily, work with a will!  
Day after day every task should be done!  
Idleness bringeth us trouble and ill,  
Labor itself is some happiness won!  
Work with the heart and work with the brain,  
Work with the hands and work with the will,  
Step after step we shall reach the high plain;  
Then pull away cheerily, work with a will.

—*Lowell.*

In February it does seem  
As if the grass were never green,  
And then in June when roses blow,  
It seems that there were never snow.

It is a good and safe rule to sojourn in every place  
as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting  
an opportunity of doing a kindness, or speaking a true  
word, or making a friend.

—*Ruskin.*