

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF NATURE STUDY JUSTIFIES
RECOGNITION.

Let us next briefly inquire what Nature Study has to offer in consideration of the granting of time (even though it be but one hour per week) which is much needed for other important subjects. In this connection it is important to remember that Natural Science during the past fifty years has undergone a complete transformation as regards the attitude of the investigator, the methods of investigation, the nature of the facts learned, and the relative importance of the subject to the welfare of humanity. This is the fundamental reason why Nature Study has come to stay, and eventually to receive educational recognition even though all its present advocates were to keep silent. The time must come when all thinking men will agree that at every stage education must be naturalistic as well as humanistic if the best results are to be achieved. The advantages of Nature Study have been fully dealt with in previous articles, and I shall refer only briefly to them in passing. From the standpoint of physical health Nature Study has much to commend it. On the side of discipline the subject when properly treated affords an excellent gymnasium for the formation of desirable habits, of sense perception, memory, imagination and thought, and for emotional and volitional development. As a preparation for citizenship the knowledge, insight and power of appreciation gained from such study is indispensable. The theory that "the highest study of man is that which relates to his own nature and destiny and that the investigations of physical science are presumptuous and sterile," has given place to a more rational conception which realizes that man can be studied in the best way only when he is viewed in relation to his environment and to the needs of his fellow men. It is no longer considered *infra dig.* for an educated man to have a practical knowledge of manual activities and to take a lively interest in every day affairs.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF NATURE STUDY.

While public sentiment is wisely conservative regarding the necessity of giving proper time and attention to the humanities and the mathematics and is opposed to extreme views, superficial