

of material and work to crowd the nature study hour to its utmost.

The garden is treated like the ordinary kitchen garden in the spring. It is fertilized with stable manure, ploughed, harrowed, and the services of a laborer are secured to assist in laying out the paths and removing a few inches of soil from them. Then the pupils assume ownership of their miniature gardens, level and rake their plots and sow them with the seed they have planned. Classes working together prepare the flower beds and sow the seed. During the planting season an hour or two each day are spent in the garden; or, if rain prevents work for a couple of days, the greater part of the afternoon is devoted to the garden as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.

Garden work is the most popular thing at school, and there is never any trouble in getting the garden planted and well cared for during the school session. The size of the plots is a troublesome question. Larger plots are more difficult to have kept clear of weeds during the summer months, but they promote interest on account of the larger material returns. The larger boys in particular wish to see a crop worth growing. Plots 10 x 16 feet have been well cared for by boys and girls 13 or 14 years of age.

After the planting season a half hour twice or three times a week keeps the garden clean and free from weeds. This time may be taken so as to interrupt the regular work very little. A little longer intermission in the afternoon, or closing the school room classes a half hour earlier, will provide plenty of time, and the book studies will not suffer; indeed, where school gardens have been started, the teachers have nearly always reported more interested pupils and a greater regularity of attendance, while parents at first opposed to the garden idea admit that it has not made progress in other subjects less rapid.

As the seeds have sprouted and the young plants have increased in size, the pupils have learned the conditions necessary for plant life, and, as they have seen buds unfold and leaves expand, the garden has provided material to be used in the class room as the subject of drawing lessons or English composition work.