

happen to anyone in the dark which is not liable to occur in daylight. If children were made to understand this by giving them definite information concerning the imagined sources of danger, how many pangs of anguish would be spared !

Inaccurate statements about animals, birds, insects and reptiles are the cause of much unfounded fear, which not only produces unhappiness, but prevents the doing of important duties or the performance of many kind acts. How much happier many would be, were they convinced of the fact that such a thing as a true record of an actual instance of a wolf attacking a human being in North America is unknown, notwithstanding the statements to the contrary, which frequently appear in the press and in books on natural history ! Just as inaccurate are the accounts of supposed injuries by spiders, which are generally but falsely accused of biting children. Many other inoffensive insects, such as caterpillars, dragonflies and beetles are dreaded, and too frequently ignorantly destroyed as deadly enemies of the human race, which have no possible power to do us any harm.

Again, reptiles of all kinds are as a rule very much dreaded, but, except in the few localities where rattlesnakes occur, we have no venomous reptiles in Canada. In fact, it may be truly said that, if we leave out of consideration mosquitoes and a few other flies, there is practically no wild reptile, beast, bird or insect in our woods which will or even can do us any harm.

Nature study will do away with a vast amount of this lack of knowledge, and to a large degree will increase the happiness and contentment of those who are drawn to nature for solace, recreation and rest, and are thus enticed into the leafy woods and dewy fields to study the many beautiful, fascinating and instructive objects there to be found.