

who are present at as many as threescore and ten of Nature's twelve-act performances and never see the scenery, listen to the music or observe the actors." If I understand aright the aims of such a society as the Field Naturalists' Club, they are to help us to hear and interpret the music of Nature's orchestra, the birds, the bees, the winds, the brooks, to aid in our study of the scenery and to encourage us to learn whatever may be known of the actors. It is true there is a utilitarian aspect to Nature study, and this aspect is of great national importance, but, in my opinion, the purely utilitarian aspect need concern us very little. If we, as a nation, can learn to love Nature and to interpret Nature, we shall be certain to make the most of natural resources.

It is really wonderful how much "seeing" is a matter of training, how little may be seen by some and how much can be seen by others; and this training in observation, to be effective, must begin very early in the life of the child. This Society can hope to do very little in gaining the real interest of those who have reached middle life or passed it. This class may be interested for an evening or for a day in some special and very interesting feature of Nature study; they may be amused at any time if the lecturer be interesting, but, unless they have learned to see for themselves and to enjoy the company of Nature, any interest on their part in Nature's wonders is likely to be spasmodic and short-lived. The hope of every society for the encouragement of Nature study lies in the young, and I firmly believe that, were it possible to interest every Canadian child in Nature study, the problem of elementary education would be practically solved. There is something good in every boy or girl. The problem is how to turn the impulses in the right direction. Many children already take a deep interest in the field excursions of this Society, and its officers are to be commended for encouraging them. The inclination towards a study of science has often been received at an early age and sometimes from a beginning apparently trivial. Wm. Hamilton Gibson, the great American exponent of Nature study, whose death a few years ago removed a man of great promise, relates as follows concerning his own beginning: "I was very young and playing in the woods. I tossed over the fallen leaves and came across a chrysalis. There was nothing remarkable in that, for I knew what