

everything which puts undue strain on the delicate muscles that are not developed until a later period put away from the primary school.

Dr. Hall then enlarged upon the lessening of interest and effort in school and college in the study of natural science which has been observed during the last decade or so. Science is being studied assiduously for its commercial secrets; but the study of science as science, out of pure love of nature, is receiving less and less attention.

This indifference to nature study I believe to be simply due to the fact that city life has taken children away from nature, so that the real love of the children has not been given free course. It is impossible in the large cities to teach these nature subjects as they ought to be taught. Blackboards will not do. It grieves one to see these blackboard leaves when they are the whole text of instruction in our common schools. Flowers do not grow in chalk frames. They have got to have the environment of grass and trees and sky in order to touch the soul. Nature is the first love of every child, and every child who does not feel this love is in an abnormal state.

We have been cross questioning a good many children in reference to their feeling toward nature. We found a good many who said, "this tree or this rose bush knows me or knows when I come here." One said, "I can see this one languish because the other one is cut down." Another said, "I always knew the difference between a fool tree and a wise tree, and I thought every body did." "I know," said another one, "that trees feel it if their limbs are cut off." We had children who talked to their doll and their pet hen. We had one child who said she understood her lamb. "I know he knows me, for when I put out my hand he sees me and puts out his hand; I shake my head, he shakes his head." The child philosophy about all these things is a natural philosophy. The little girls who hug and kiss their pigs and are not reproved by their mothers are indeed children of nature. The children who really make friends to the flowers and whose hearts go out to the stars, they are the children who can be understood and who can understand nature's language. Premature, pallid little children they will never be. You can't induct children into the love of nature by the use of the microscope and charts. There must be a previous sympathetic ground-work. And I say to those who love children, you must love nature and children and God together. They were never meant to be separated and cannot be separated without injury to all.