

ably crowd around these exhibits, bears testimony to the great interest in the subject, not only on the part of the friends of the exhibitors, but also among the general public; and, besides, it is highly commendable, because they are stimulating the study of branches of knowledge which are now acknowledged to be of the utmost importance, in finding simple means for preventing loss in the crops of the country and thus increasing enormously its revenues, as well as, at the same time, the prosperity and happiness of the individual citizen. Teachers and students may therefore feel quite justified in giving the necessary time and thought required in trying to learn the true nature of some of the common natural history objects around them. These to most minds will be found on closer acquaintance to be so attractive that they will stimulate further study and engender a craving for more knowledge concerning all similar objects. This will bring with it increased powers of observation and comparison, in short, a scientific attitude of mind which strives to see things in their true light, to think correctly, and to understand what is being considered. To do this will require much patience and mental self control, as well as great care to avoid jumping to hasty conclusions. It may be claimed, then, that this work is certainly useful, not only from an educational point of view because it demands close observation and thought, which train the mind and form character; but also because the actual knowledge acquired is of use in the ordinary walks of every day life. A nature study may be defined as an educational exercise consisting of a careful observation of some common natural history object, together with a conscious mental effort to learn as much as possible of its nature and uses:—what it is, what it does, why it does it, how it does it, and what its relation is to man or more directly to the observer himself. In such an exercise it is convenient and often necessary to preserve specimens both of the objects under consideration and of similar and allied forms, so as to have these at all times easy of access for study and comparison. This means to make a collection. In doing this, it is soon noticed that each kind of plant has its own habitat or special locality where it finds conditions most suitable to its highest development, and that, to find it in the best state for study, it must be sought for in those localities. For the