

may be brought into school alive for the purposes of illustration ; likewise mollusks, insects, worms and lower animals. Great care should be taken by the teacher, in this matter, not to allow children to treat these animals cruelly. Collecting butterflies, beetles, etc., is one of the results which the study of nature produces upon children, thus keeping them out of mischief and vice.

For the study of *botany*, plants may be had during the greater part of the year. Teachers should inform themselves during what month, or even week of the month, the blossoming of the plants take place in each locality.

In *geology*, specimens are easily obtained ; and it would be very beneficial if a collection of the metals and other materials used in our industries, the arts, and our household economy, could be obtained for the schools.

Cases and lockers should be provided, so that the books, specimens and apparatus can be safely kept, and that order and cleanliness may prevail everywhere.

3. LIBRARIES.—If our children were to learn to read and to master the four or five reading books of a series in school, only, and afterward they were to receive no further encouragement to read good books that will widen their circle of thought and cherish in them an ideal life, their reading would be of very little consequence. For, merely to be able to read without having a taste to read inculcated, seems like "love's labor lost." To create a love for reading, and, especially, for reading the best of literature, libraries are to be established in every school district of the State. Valuable as the country newspapers are, if the young were to gather no other information than what is contained in them, they might for their mental improvement, as well not read at all.

"The best is just good enough for the children," says the poet. In these district libraries none but books of unquestioned and unquestionable merit should find a place. Within the last ten years, most book houses have published excellent books for young people, and to merely begin to print a list of suitable books here, would far exceed the space at my disposal. With the aid of the county superintendent and the teacher, the school board of every district may select from the various catalogues good books, suitable for every grade of children in school. Children who have not attained a certain proficiency in reading should not be made to read independently. Great harm is also done by causing such young children to read by themselves ; they get used to skimming over the pages hurriedly,