

try proves to him the value of every crop produced, whether as food or as an ameliorator of the soil.

Although in this *cui bono* age the material aspect of every question has always to be calculated with, there is another feature of these studies which ranks high in importance, namely, the actual pleasure which is to be derived from them. What pleasure can compare with that of recognizing the indications of returning spring, so long and anxiously looked for during the cold solitude of winter? The hearing of the cheery Shore Lark's song in bleak and blustery March is the first unit in the glorious annual procession of the seasons. This is soon followed, as the power of the sun increases, by the colouring of the bark on the twigs of shrubs and trees, the happy songs of the returning birds, the opening of the flowers, each in its season and in its own special habitat, accompanied by the reviving of the army of their busy humming insect allies, which, when seeking their own nourishment, play such an important part as the chief means of securing the cross-fertilization of flowers and the perpetuation of many plants. This procession, beginning slowly at first and easily noted, before long unfolds its variegated pageant with ever quickening steps, soon to rush by so quickly in its race, as to defy the powers of the quickest observer, to note the constant changes in the crowded members of its alternately widening and diminishing train, — birds, plants, mammals, insects, all animated life. Each one has distinctive habits, corresponding with the seasons, and every group is worthy of the closest study; there is nothing that does not provide a source of elevating pleasure and a rich field in which the humblest observer may reap scientific laurels. Many of the smaller wild birds, if treated as friends, will soon learn to trust us, lose their fear, and respond to our advances. Some, as the Wren, the Swallows, the American Robin, the Chipping Sparrow, will build their nests close to our houses and will even make use of suitable sites which have been provided for them. Here they may be observed at leisure and will teach us many things which will constantly delight and surprise us. A study of the lives and habits of the myriad hosts of insects will show us perhaps more than anything else the gigantic ends which are attainable by persistent, constantly applied effort, and by apparently inadequate means. An examination of the structure of any part of the least of these will direct our thoughts and reveal to our wondering eyes the universal perfection to be found in all creation.