

easier to create an interest in things which are not of as practical value; but much of the value of the lesson will depend on whether it promotes a spirit of investigation in the student and helps his powers of observation. Nature studies in class rooms should be with things with which the child will be sure to come in contact with through life. Be it what it may, some practical turn should be given to the study, although the arousing of interest in, and the creating a love for, the beauties and wonders of nature should always be one of the chief features of the lesson. Success in obtaining this object should be much more certain if one began with the practical and used the theoretical to aid him, than if one began with the theoretical and hoped to get something practical out of it.

The writer's main purpose in presenting this article is to show, if possible, that the amateur gardener, as a student of nature, combines the love for nature with the practical, in an almost ideal way. I do not refer to the amateur as opposed to the professional, but to the man, woman or child who grows and cares for plants mainly for the love of it; and it seems scarcely possible that one can be a true lover of nature unless, as far as his circumstances will allow, he prepares soil, sows seeds and cares for plants; for it is only in this way he can come into closest communion with nature and become best able to understand and appreciate the growth and development of the wild flowers and forest trees. From personal experience he finds that some plants succeed best in heavy soil and some in light; that some require much moisture and others comparatively little. His observation becomes keener, and he soon perceives that when growing in their native homes some species of plants will be found under certain conditions of soil and moisture, and others under different conditions. From his experience with beneficial and injurious insects, he appreciates far more than he could otherwise do, the effect these have on the growth and development of plants. He is brought into daily and closer relation with the birds and soon becomes familiar with their appearance and can identify all the commoner species.

It is a small garden, indeed, in which a robin or at least a chipping sparrow does not built its nest. Hence there is an opportunity for nearly everyone who has a garden, to study the