

NATURE STUDY

Super Head by Miss Lizzie Noonan
Before West Prince Teachers' Association.

Most people look at many things which they do not see and hear many sounds to which they pay little or no attention. There are, for instance, many intelligent people living on Prince Edward Island who have been looking at birch and beech trees all their lives yet they cannot describe the leaves, blossoms and general appearance of those trees so as to distinguish one from the other. Also, from year to year they have seen several different kinds of birds in their fields and gardens, have heard them sing very sweetly and yet have little knowledge of these birds, of their songs, color and habits.

Nature Study is seeing what one looks at and drawing proper conclusions from what one sees. It is the study and reason a thing which draws the learner into

personal relation and sympathy with the object—it is the study of things and the reason of things.

By Nature Study we mean such study of the natural world as will lead to sympathy with it, a presentation to the children of the outside world that our children learn to love all nature's forms and cease to abuse them. Nature Study is the study of nature; it is not reading books nor listening to the words of the teacher but is a study under conditions as natural as possible. Nature belongs to the outside world and out-of-doors we must go to study it. Were we to confine nature to the schoolroom we would shut out one of its best parts.

Nature Study may be studied with either of two objects: to discover new truths for increasing the sum of human knowledge, or to put the pupils in a sympathetic mood toward nature to increase the joy of living. The former will make them investigators; the latter will enable every person to live a better life, whatever his calling in life may be.

Nature, real nature, is instinct with life and action, is living, growing and working. It must be studied, not merely glanced at, but investigated personally. Books may help, may tell us about nature but they are not nature. The book should be a plant or animal. Field lessons are necessary for the best work. The only instruments necessary for studying nature are a seeing eye, a hearing ear and an understanding heart. Nature is nature studied in its various relations. Every phenomenon stands in relation to a host of other phenomena. It reveals a Protector and Planner and points to a purpose and a cause. It misses its highest object and grandest purpose unless it points to that which is above nature.

Some of the objects of Nature Study are, to awaken an interest in the child and cultivate a sympathy with his personal environment; to cultivate the higher nature of the child and lead him to God; to develop his intellectual powers and form right habits.

The child must have some idea and understanding of nature in order to enjoy and appreciate the literature and art which have been inspired by nature. He should early get a knowledge of his physical environment which may be made the basis for his work in geography, the study of his broader environment. The study of nature falls in aim unless the seen points the child to the unseen, unless from care and protection he looks to a Protector; unless a Planner is seen in all things, nature has not revealed to teacher and pupils its grandest thought, its grandest lesson, eternal unity.

A child is first brought into relation with the physical world, he gains everything through his senses and they tell him only of his physical surroundings. In his earlier education matter should be used which appeals most strongly to his senses. Between the ages 8 to 10 years the child's peculiarity is curiosity. This is the age for Nature Study. Learn him to get beautiful and clear perceptions.

The child should be led to appreciate what he gets from nature. To do this we must open his eyes to the beauties of nature when he understands which he begins to protect where once he destroyed. As a child studies nature he learns better to appreciate what has been the source and inspiration of much that is beautiful in nature and art. Many of the works of Wordsworth and Tennyson which at first may mean little to the child become full of beauty because he has now some idea of the nature which inspired them. They have left us the very flavor and essence of the fields, wood and sky. They were not scientific men, they were nature students and their beautiful works, which will last forever, are simply descriptions of nature in the way they interpreted it. Some do not want to teach nature because they think they do not know enough about it. Technical knowledge does not make a good teacher as one is apt to go into the subject and make it uninteresting to the child. If children are brought into sympathy with their surroundings they will like the country better and be content to live in it. All you have to do is to get the child interested in nature and then your entrance will go. Nature presented in any form is sure to interest the child. All men love nature if they know it, but the methods and fashions of living nowadays obscure the universal passion. Let the teacher be enthusiastic and the children will become interested because enthusiasm is contagious.

In the earlier years of the child's life he should study nature. Later on he should study man but this at first should be largely a study of man's relation to nature. From what he can see and understand in his own home he can pass by reading and using his imagination to the study of the children of other lands.

The aim of Nature Study is to interest men and women but more especially boys and girls in the natural objects which they look at, touch, taste and handle from day to day so that they may early learn the habit of observing closely what they look at and so get all the pleasure possible out of their surroundings and may find their daily work less monotonous and gather information which may be helpful to them in overcoming difficulties and in working for a share for the necessary comforts of life.

Its aim is to make the child acquainted with his environment, which may be considered threefold: man, nature and God. The highest aim of education is to perfect the relations between the child and his environment, then the immediate aim of formal education is to bring the child into right relation with man and nature. Above this is the perfecting of the relation between God and the child. If we could only get our children early interested in the beauties of nature, we would have less to complain regarding the conduct of some of our children. It would be hard to find a lover of nature who is not astonished at the wonders of nature and turns his thoughts to the Protector and Planner of all things and is thus brought into closer relation with God.

In order that a child may adopt himself to his environment he must learn the relations between man and nature. If his education is only along literary lines it will be narrow and will not fit him for the physical world in which he lives. Yet if he has learned nothing of man's social and political relations he will not be fitted for life. From the experiences of people of former times, much can be learned to assist us in our work in this life. Therefore in order that a child may be fitted to live he must study man and nature.

Not until he knows something of nature and man is he fitted for the study of his intellectual environment and as his intellectual grows he becomes more closely related to the intellectual world around him. This becomes more important and should be given prominence. So in early years Nature Study should be more largely taught and then man should be given prominence.

Two factors determine the proper subjects for Nature Study: 1st the subject must be one in which the teacher is most interested and of which he has most knowledge, 2nd the subject must be that which is commonest and which can be easily seen and appreciated by the pupil and which is nearest and dearest to his life.

There are three factors that determine the method of teaching Nature: 1st the fact; 2nd the reason of the fact and 3rd the questions left in the child's mind. Knowledge begins in wonder. Nature Study should be taken up in the morning, at the close of a hard period or any time during the day when an opportunity presents itself. It should be studied from the standpoint of the child, not the teacher, by the child, the teacher being an investigator of the truth. In the early years of the child's life education is Nature Study. From the ages of four to seven the child learns more than he does during any other three years of his life. Why should we stop Nature Study when the child enters school? Nature Study gives the child something to work with, something definite and tangible with which to develop his powers, something he can see, talk about, and tell about.

We do not require much knowledge of Nature Study for if we are scientists we are not liable to teach from the child's standpoint. The subject should be studied whole first—then we can go into details. Now and then select the subject to be studied and they will bring in specimens of which the teacher knows nothing. These sometimes are best for Nature Study, as they are sure to interest the child. The work should be suited to the time of the year. Germination should be taken up in May; leaf coloration in October.

For the first lesson teach something that you know well, something useful and practical, not that what is hard for the child to understand. Teach the children to respect the life of every creature, to study their habits and homes. After giving a lesson, read something connected with the lesson—experience, then theory. Every pupil should have Nature Study under one form or another, but he should receive his inspiration from the teacher, who himself is so full of the subject that he teaches it with energy and cheerfulness.

When giving a lesson, the teacher should not ask too many questions as pupils cannot think and observe closely when questions are asked. The fewer and broader also the clearer and sharper the question, the better will be the result in getting pupils to think for

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm. W. ALDRING, KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Carters' Bookstore is ex- quarters for Souvenirs of Prince Edward Island.

A Bargain in Linoleums and Oilcloths All Two Yards Wide.

Linoleum worth 60c square yard for 35c.
Oilcloth worth 35c square yard for 23c.
Bring the measurements of your room, hall or kitchen and we will cut and match it for you.
Come early and get first choice.

JAMES PATON & Co.

themselves. If pupils are led to relate their ideas for themselves and to follow out a line of thought for themselves they will be much more successful in expressing their ideas and developing their powers of observation. If we have only interested the pupils our lesson will be a success. Our pupils are not well enough trained in oral expression. Reports of pupils will train them to talk. Painting, drawing and clay modelling will enable them to give outward expression of the impressions they have in their minds. Begin with something that is really a part of the child's experience. Accept as good only such results as indicate honesty of purpose and growth of mind. Be faithful and bide your time and don't expect results too rapidly.

The limitations of Nature Study depend on the fact that it does not contain adequate study of one of the child's environment, man. It does not give the child the benefit of the experiences of the past; it does not under average conditions provide adequate work in the formal studies of the school, particularly, language and arithmetic.

Nature Study cannot be taken up as a formal study in our schools until our Course of Studies be revised. If we are expected to teach Nature in our schools some other subject will have to be taken off our curriculum. Although some will argue to the contrary, those teachers who can have the most pupils pass the Entrance Exams. are considered the best teachers. Also, a teacher will never get his school graded by teaching Nature Study. At present the standard of the school is determined by the amount of English Literature, Latin, Geometry, etc that the pupils know—not by the amount of knowledge they have acquired of the outside world.

Those teachers who are very energetic can teach quite an amount of Nature Study work during the day enter incidentally or they may spend several minutes each hour as a rest to the pupils. Those who do not wish to exert them selves thus must either demand a change in our course of studies or leave Nature Study alone as they will have little time for it especially if they have a large class of entrance pupils.

Again, to teach Nature Study properly we must go out of doors to study each plant or animal in its native haunts. To study the song sparrow we must go to the woods. Were we to capture the poor sparrow and take him to the school-room he would appear a very dejected bird and would sing us a very sad song. To become acquainted with the beauty of the sea-shells we must study them on the seashore.—Compare Emerson.

"I thought the sparrow's note from heaven,
Singing at dawn on the alder tree;
I brought him home in his nest at even,
He sings the song but it cheers not now;
For I did not bring home the river and sky,
He sang to my ear, they sang to my eye.

The beautiful shells lay on the shore;
The bubbles of the latest wave,
Fresh pearl to their enamel gave;
I wiped away the weeds and foam,
I fished my sea-born treasures home,
But the poor unsightly noisome things,
Had left their beauty on the shore,
With the wind and the waves and the wild uproar.

So if we are going to take up Nature Study we must take our pupils out to the fields and woods. Of course, no farmer would object to or crossing his fields in summer time but he might pause in his work to criticize the new fads in education. He would likely tell you the next time he saw you that he did not want his children taken out of school to go to the woods to catch bugs, etc., that he wanted his children to learn how to cipher.

Perhaps, no P. E. L. farmer has been given an opportunity to say those things; I wonder would he if he were given the chance.

A graded course in Nature Study is necessary as we cannot give a child of seven the same lesson as one of fourteen. The lesson must be given to suit the age and ability of the child. Of course, some subjects, such as lessons on the stars, can be studied by all the class at the same time.

It is to be hoped that Nature Study under one name or other will soon be one of the principal subjects taught in our schools that we may do something towards enabling our boys and girls who live on the farm to enjoy life more and derive more practical benefits from their school days. Latin and Algebra are hardly essential in the education of farmers' children. Agriculture and entomology would be more important. They must be taught something that benefit them in after life and Nature Study, I think will help to do this. Yet we must not make Nature Study a fad. It must be introduced very slowly

Sausage Makers' Supplies

Sheep Casings.
Seasonings.
Herbs and Spices.
We are buyers of fresh eggs.

John Hopkins,

St. John, N. B.
Established 1867.
6 tbs & w f.

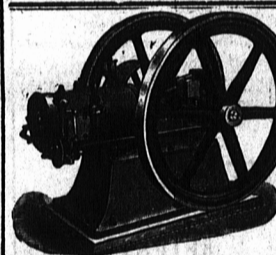
Medical Council Examinations.

The Professional Examinations of the Medical Council, under the Provisions of the Medical Council Act, will be held at Charlottetown

ON JULY 19th AND 20th

For further particulars regarding these examinations, application should be made before July 4th, to the Registrar.

S. R. JENKINS, M. D.,
6-16 tbs & 31 Registrar.



GASOLINE ENGINES

Marine, Stationary and Portable in all sizes from 1 1/2 to 50 H. P. Marine engines easily installed in any style of pleasure or factory boat.

Stationary engines admirably suited for factory and mill purposes, a saving of about 50 per cent in cost of fuel in the smaller sizes as compared with steam.

Portable engines will run your dresher, wood saw, etc., at about half the cost of maintaining a horse-power, does better work, keeps an even speed, positively no danger of fire, light to move, started at a moment's notice and will run in all kinds of weather without attention.

High grade engines, all powers guaranteed. Traveller will call on interested parties. Terms easy. Prices moderate.

Send for catalogues and full particulars.

AMHERST MOTOR Co., Amherst, N.S.
June 14, tis & w 3m

CAB SERVICE

Passengers, baggage, etc., conveyed anywhere desired. Leave orders at McDonald & McKinnon's Drug Store or at Stables, Sydney Street, near Stevenson's Corner. J. M. NICHOLSON,
1-28 d i yr. Telephone No. 253

FIRE INSURANCE.

For rates in the P. E. Island Mutual Fire Insurance Companies on Farm Buildings, Churches, Halls, School Houses, Cheese Factories, Water Mills, Stores, etc., apply to C. D. BELL, Charlottetown
5-30 wed

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Home-seeker's Excursions

—TO THE—
CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

Second-class Round Trip Tickets will be issued from Charlottetown, P. E. I. To Winnipeg \$35.95
Moosomin \$38.20
Regina \$40.45
Lipton \$39.70
Moosejaw \$39.95
Prince Albert \$41.95
Mel.ood \$43.95
Calgary \$44.45
Red Deer \$45.45
Strathcona \$46.45

Equally Low Rates to Other Points. Tickets good going June 14th and 28th July 12th. Good to return two months date of issue.

Further particulars on application to J. E. MATTHEWS, Charlottetown
OR F. R. PERRY
B. P. A., C. P. R., St. John, N.B.

League of the Cross PICNIC

The League of the Cross will hold their annual picnic on the beautiful grounds of Mr. Wm. Wyatt, known as Maple Grove, Suffolk

—ON—
MONDAY, JULY 17th.

This picnic is always looked forward to as a treat of the season, and this year the committee are determined to make this exceed all previous years.

This grove is situated just beside the railway station; no long, tiresome walk to reach the grounds. Plenty of shade to protect you from the sun, and an abundant supply of Ice Cream and Temperate Drinks. Well stocked refreshment saloons, good dinner and tea tables, all amusements to make the day enjoyable to young and old.

The usual sports are under the management of a capable official who will leave nothing undone to make this the best of years.

The society band will be in attendance with a choice repertoire of new music.

Special trains leave the city at 8.30 a. m., and 1.45 p. m., and on return leaves the grounds at 7.30.

Return fare 25c; children 15c.
Single first class fares from Mount Stewart and other intermediate stations.

F. P. HENNESSEY, Sec'y.
11 tbs 31

ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

will be held AT WESTVILLE (West River) on THURSDAY, JULY 13th

S. S. City of London will leave the Steam Navigation Co's Wharf at 10 a.m., and 3 p. m.

Return Fare Reduced to 15c.

On the steamer refreshing drinks, fruits, etc., may be had from the committee in charge; and on the grounds there will be a well stocked Refreshment Booth

where everything good for the appetites of men, women and children may be had at very reasonable rates. A first-class tea table with ham, tongue, lamb, roast beef, chicken, salads, etc., will be set for visitors. The very sight of this table should create an appetite to say nothing of the appetizing and refreshing eat. Games of various kinds will be provided and prizes given.

A beautiful cool sail brings you to this delightful spot for a picnic. Water everywhere. Don't miss this opportunity. Thursday next 12th at 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., City of London.

To avoid the rush, tickets may be had at Mr. Grey's store, cor. Prince and Water Sts., from members of the committee or at the steamer.

11 d 31

Chas. F. Davison

Funeral Director and Embalmer

Office and showrooms, Prince St., opposite Baptist Church. Residence, foot of Prince St. Having added to my equipment one of the latest improved casket lowering devices, and a fine pair of horses, and having had eight years experience in the business I am prepared to do all work in a thoroughly up-to-date manner. All calls promptly attended to at any hour of the day or night. Office telephone, No. 289, residence, No. 192. June 6 tbs & w f.

CHEAPER THAN HAY

Ontario Bran.
Manitoba Bran.
Middling Corn Meal.
Cracked Corn.
Matchless Chop, [1 1/2 each
Barley, Oats and Corn.]
Gluten Meal, [great milk producer]
Oil Cake Meal.
Blatchford's Calf Meal.
Wholesale and Retail at VERY LOW PRICES

AULD BROS.,

QUERN STREET,
19 tu fri & w f

Grand Tea Party WILL BE HELD AT Mount Stewart

(In Aid of Presbyterian Church)

—ON—
THURSDAY, JULY 20th

Tables supplied with all the delicacies of the season, also a well stocked refreshment saloon. Amusements of various kinds will be provided.

A special train will leave Charlottetown on date of party, at 10 a. m., returning at 7 p. m. Return fare from Charlottetown 45c. From intermediate stations at equally low rates.

By order of Trustees.
7-7 d 1st, f w 21

Charlottetown Board of Trade QUARTERLY MEETING.

The General Quarterly Meeting of this corporation will be held at their rooms, MacEachern building, Queen Street, this city on the evening of Wednesday the 11th of July at 8 o'clock in the evening.

W. W. CLARKE, Secretary
7-8 d t Pat. Ex.

Kesaced in every home KENT FLOUR.

Ask your grocers for it. In bags or barrels Wholesale by Carvell Bros.

18 tbs a w f.

Scotia Line

The S. S. "RESTIGOUCHE" sailing from Montreal Thursday July 13th, will be due at Charlottetown, Saturday evening, July 15th, and on Monday, July 17th sails for St. John's, Nfld., direct, carrying live stock on deck and produce under deck at lowest rates.

For further particulars apply to

A. Pickard & Co., AGENTS, Charlottetown.

7-11 d t

S. S. AMELIA

Capt. A. D. Burns

Commencing 1st July will leave Charlottetown every alternate Saturday for Pictou, Souris, Cheticamp, Sydney, St. Pierre and Placentia, Nfld., taking freight and passengers.

Carvell Bros., AGENTS.

7-3 d t Oct 31

IF YOU ONLY KNEW

When your well stocked store was going to burn down, you could wait to insure until the week before, but

When It is Destroyed

You are too late. Remember the old adage, "There is no time like the present," and no insurance like ours.

B. H. BEER
Representing Phoenix of Hartford Canadian Quebec.

50c.

A job lot of Child's and Misses' Boots and Shoes, different lines worth up to \$1.40 a pair your choice for 50c.

Others at half price.
Big Bargains to all for cash only.

J. H. BELL

SPONGES FOR BUGGIES

We have some big durable juicy buggy sponges, that we are selling at 25 and 30c each. Still better ones at 20 and 25c an ounce, each a bargain at the price.

These are being picked up quickly, so if you require any, speed will be necessary to get a good pick.

See window.

J. C. Jamieson,

DRUGGIST.

COMFORTABLE EYEGLASS

Is the Sta-Zon. It conforms to the features by its ease of adjustment, besides this we adapt lenses to your eyes by the most modern methods.

G. F. HUTCHESON,
Expert Optician.

25 d w f.

Large Shipment

Of iron beds reached us TO-DAY by steamer from Montreal.

Our stocks are now very complete. If you want to fit an extra bed for some expected "Old Home Comers" this is your store—largest variety to choose from, lowest price to pay for what you want—Ask to see our line of spring beds—and top mattresses.

Mark Wright Furnishing Co.,

CARPETS AND FURNITURE.