

What young student of biology today does not thrill with joy at the prospect of field trips, of bringing live plants and animals into the classroom, and watching them develop and grow! He delights in the opportunity to study preserved specimens. It is easy to remember the first part of the motto "study nature" and call it fun. Then he suddenly realizes that biologists, like all other scientists need to record their observations. In his struggle for adequate self-expression he arrives at the decision that even books can be of use. Thus to the discoveries of the past is added the knowledge gained by further observation and experiment. The motto thus modified to the student may be "Study nature, and with the aid of books learn to speak its language."

RUTH A. DODGE.

NATURE STUDY—ALL INCLUSIVE

To the biologist who eagerly seeks his chosen field for more and greater knowledge, to the teacher of biology who since college days has sought only his own major interest, or the newcomer in the field of science education, the mention of nature study brings forth a shower of comments. To many it is so general in its scope that it merely scratches the surface and leaves no foundation. But to the student or teacher of nature study there opens a picture of nature as a whole. As the colors of the spectrum combine to form white light so the branches of nature study form an integral part of the universe.

To the beginner it matters not whether he first observes a living ant, a star, or a fossil bird. Interest paves the way to lasting hobbies. New fields open for alert students as well as teachers. Questions may arise as to the effect

of the heavenly bodies on the climate of the earth. This in turn affects living things of the present even as fossils are tangible evidence of life of the past. The particular phase of nature study may well be concerned with the immediate environment and may vary from an interest created by a day at the shore to that of a walk through the mesquite and sagebrush of the desert. To each habitat belong its flora and fauna. Whether it be the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, or the flowers of the woods, each has a story to tell, each presents some biological truth and each is related to the other.

Mother Nature like a book

Opens wide where all may look.

Some may glance and may not read,

Others may find fertile seed.

Some her laws may well explain—

Search for those that still remain.

But some, alas, just look askance

And wonder why they've had no
chance.

RUTH A. DODGE.

*Chairman, Nature
Study Committee*

A LETTER FROM KENTUCKY

At Wayland High School there is the largest high school natural history museum in Eastern Kentucky. It has been collected by the students under my supervision in the past four years. We study biology by seasons; insects in the fall, human biology in winter, and amphibians, reptiles, wild flowers, and fishes during the spring. We plan to build up an herbarium of every flowering plant that occurs in our region.

WILLIAM ADAMS, JR.,
*Wayland High School,
Wayland, Kentucky.*