

ment, complement, and stimulate, but the bulk of the attitude-changing responsibility remains with the classroom teacher.

The outdoor situation provides a wonderful opportunity for use of the open-ended and "discovery" approaches to learning. The teacher does not have to be an expert in field biology and ecology—but rather a knowledgeable leader who is willing to do some discovering along with the class. The student gains confidence in his own powers of observation, a necessary prerequisite for a basic understanding of the scientific method, because he is not criticized for coming up with a "wrong" answer. In many cases we find that providing youngsters with an inexpensive hand-lens, a metric rule, a field notebook, and an outdoor discovery area will open up worlds of observation and exploration they never knew existed before. They are eager to observe and just as anxious

to divulge their findings. Our experiments with fifth graders indicated that, for many of them, the field trip was sufficiently stimulating and meaningful so as to elicit paragraphs, compositions, and even poetry. Thus, even language arts can be taught in the outdoor classroom.

There are obviously many serendipitous outcomes along the way when one decides to include field activities in his or her teaching. But, again, the long-range and far-reaching result, i.e., the acquisition of values and attitudes, which make the *intelligent* use of our environmental heritage a priority item in future thinking, is the most significant in terms of man's survival on planet earth.

Editor's note: To help local teachers work with the out-of-doors, the Outdoor Education Project has prepared experimental teacher materials for the elementary and secondary grades, and is currently testing these in a number of classes.

Booklet Details Federal Aid to Recreation Projects

Individuals and public and private organizations seeking Federal aid for outdoor recreation projects will find a complete catalogue of all major U.S. technical and financial assistance programs in a newly revised publication being issued by the Department of the Interior.

Federal Assistance in Outdoor Recreation lists provisions of more than half a hundred programs which provide help to individuals, associations, states and their political subdivisions in planning, operating or maintaining outdoor recreation projects. It describes matching grants for states, counties, cities, and other units of government, such as those available under the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Open-Space Programs. It also lists sources of Federal loans for individuals, associations, and small towns wishing to install recreation enterprises, as well as detailed information on many other Federal programs.

The booklet, pocket-size, contains 83 pages and is available for 35¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing

Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. It was compiled by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior.

Asian Flu

The DuPont Company announced today that the U. S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the company's new drug application for permission to market "Symmetrel," amantadine hydrochloride, as a prescription drug for prevention of human illness due to Asian flu (A_2 influenza virus).

"Symmetrel," which will be sold only on doctors' prescriptions, is a synthesized drug, taken by mouth—not a vaccine or antibiotic. It acts by interfering with virus penetration of host cells, but does not conflict with production of antibodies. Thus it gives physicians a new approach—preventive oral medication—to reduce the incidence of Asian flu. It provides possible immediate A_2 influenza protection when taken following suspected contact and protection continues as long as a person takes the drug. Antibiotics, while effective against bacterial infections, are ineffective against A_2 influenza and most other viruses.