

**THE NATURE STUDY COURSE
WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR
TEACHING IT BASED ON NOTES
OF LECTURES TO TEACHERS-IN-
TRAINING**

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The nature study course with suggestions for teaching it based on notes of lectures to teachers-in-training by John Dearness

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JOHN DEARNESS

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NOTES OF LECTURES
TO TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING.

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Nature Study."*

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C. N. M.

PREFACE.

When the teachers began to teach the part of the new Course of Study relating to nature work, judging by the questions asked by Normal School students and numerous correspondents, many of them were confronted by difficulties over which the books available did not help them. An engagement to answer such questions, and to offer hints and suggestions on the Nature Study part of the Course has drawn forth the following pages.

Direct the children how and where *to collect the material*, guide their *observations and reasoning* upon what they bring, and teach them the *arts of expressing* the steps and results of their investigation. This general direction seems as simple as it is comprehensive; but in its application almost as many different problems arise as there are different lessons. No one can anticipate all these problems, but solutions of many of them are herein proposed.

The Nature Study teacher well knows the value of comparison. Any one using the course of study prescribed for his own province will derive much benefit from comparing it in detail and in entirety with the course adopted in another province. This little book may, therefore, prove as helpful to teachers outside of the Provinces whose regulations are quoted as to those serving within their boundaries.

"Unfolded is the world only to the observing mind."—*Feuerbach*.

"Original research in hand to hand contact with Nature ought to be made the breath of life in an educational system."—*C. F. Hodge*.

Observe accurately, reason logically, judge impartially, express truthfully, enjoy heartily.

"When Nature becomes the subject of study, the love of Nature its stimulus, and the order of Nature its guide, then will results in educational science rival the achievements of science in any other field."

"The true naturalist is the true poet."

"Nay what is Nature's
Self, but an endless
Strife toward music,
Euphony, rhyme?
Trees in their blooming,
Tides in their flowing,
Stars in their circling,
Tremble with song."

—*William Watson*

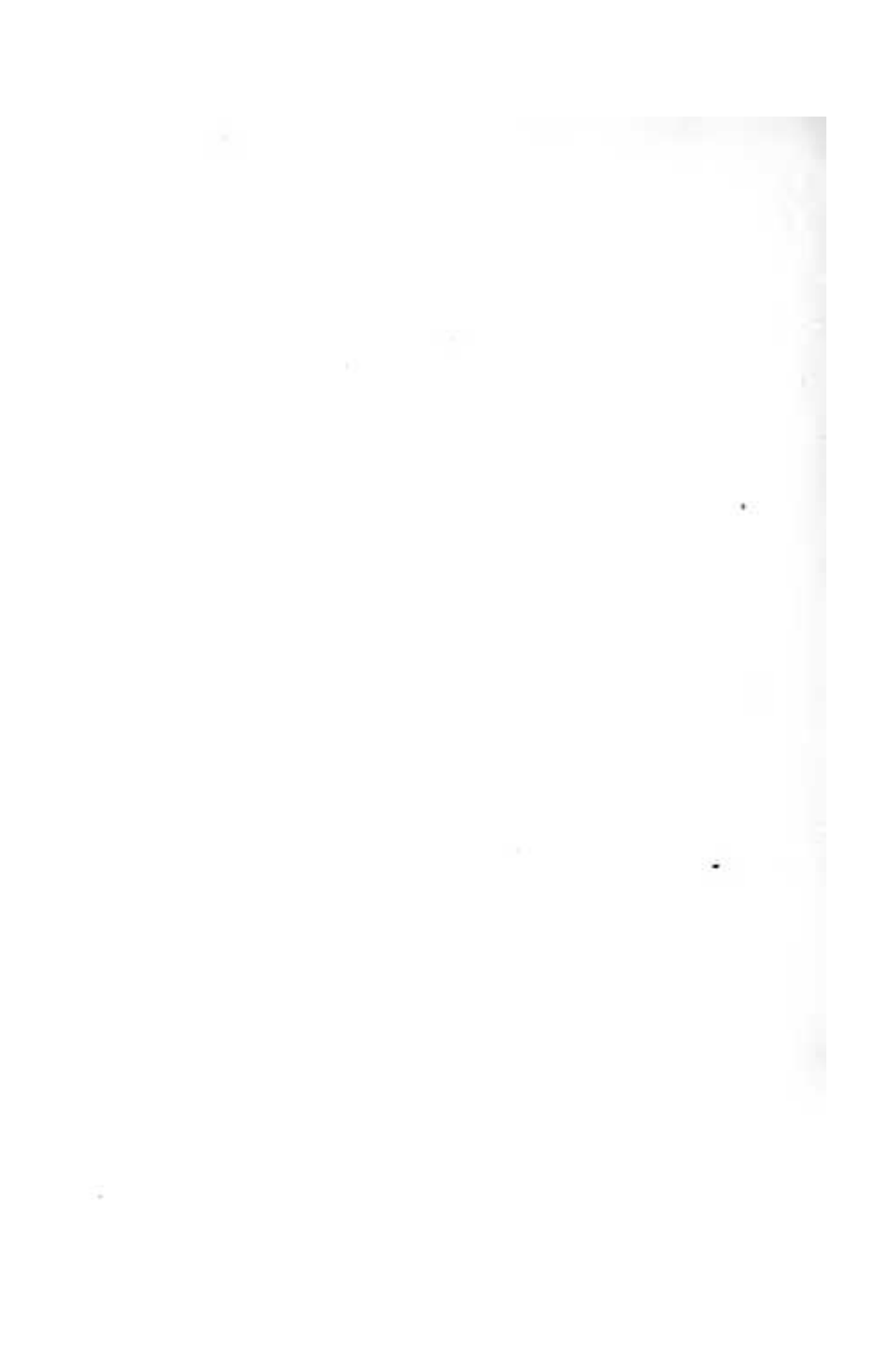
"The way to see a thing is to love it, and love sharpens the eye."—*Burroughs*.

"The teacher must never forget this cardinal fact that observation, accurate and sympathetic, true-eyed and true-hearted, is the mother alike of literature and of science."—*C. Lloyd Morgan in Psychology for Teachers*.

"Nature is the incarnation of thought, and turns to thought again as ice becomes water and gas. The world is mind precipitated, and the volatile essence is forever escaping again into the state of thought."—*Emerson*.

"Happy is he who has learned to search out the secret of things,
. . . The ageless order he sees of nature that cannot die,
And the Cause whence it springs and the How and the Why.
Never have thoughts like these to a deed of dishonor been turned."

—*Euripides*.



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