

# Through Woods and Pastures

BY ABIE SHARPE

## XII.—Taking Care of the Seeds.

At the end, the culmination, of all the efforts of the season is preparing the seeds to take root and grow in some chosen home, the seeds must be fitted for not only what they have to endure in all the changes of temperature and exposure, but must be so prepared that these severe variations will harm them as little as possible and will indeed be of benefit to the embryo wrapped within in the covering. Moreover, the seeds must be sown in as favorable a spot as the mother plant can contrive to have them reach.

To accomplish this we have seen how the witch hazel cradles hers in the pod through the first winter of immaturity and forcibly expels them at the beginning of the second, so that they may lie under the dead leaves and sink into the softening soil until they, too, are in a condition to take root. The violet also employs the same device, but that



Common Dandelion.

is only one way of expelling the seeds from their resting places. There is a great variety of methods employed by different families.

For instance, there is our common dandelion, which affords a striking and familiar example of a favorite method. Why does it have that light, airy puff-ball? Pick one up and blow it, as the children do, to see what time it is. Who! The light particles float away, and we can see that each has at one end a fuzz star which carries it along.

A thin, gray filament or stem attaches the fuzz star to a brown seed at the other end. This is the way the dandelion floats its seeds when ripe away on the breeze by means of the down, so that each time we blow one we are helping it to sow its crop for the next year. When the little pieces do not wiff away readily, it is because they are not sufficiently matured and loosened from their holdings.

The same plan is used by many in the composite and other families. The wild lettuce, the hawkweed and the asters have variations of it which, however, are not quite so delicately and perfectly planned as that of the dandelion.

The thistles and the milkweed family that style also. These are the light bits of down caught on the hedges and lingering weed stalks in the late fall and early winter which the children call "willy wisps" and catch and blow into the air, saying, "Go, willy wisp, and bring me a quarter!" If they sink, the quarter is not to be forthcoming, and if they are carried for a distance the quarter may come soon. These are the puffs attached to the seeds of the thistle or the milkweed, as the case may be. The down of the thistle is much the finer and lighter of the two as it sifts out from between the disintegrating prickly scales of the pod. The pod of the milkweed splits up the entire length, showing the seeds arranged along a central part. Piece by piece they work out and fly away. In December, when they may be seen to advantage still going through this process, the pods have caught a beautiful shade of silvery gray from the frost of the new winter.

Other plants depend upon birds for the distribution. To tempt them the plants do up the seeds in juicy berries or larger fruits. When the berries are dull colored or lack fragrance, they spread out an additional advertisement in the shape of brilliant foliage, so it is impossible to overlook them. The five leaved ivy, also known as woodbine and Virginia creeper, has beautiful leaves in September, and hidden among them are the berries of blue berries. The poke berries seem to deck in bright leaves.

The Jack-in-the-pulpit attracts to the redness of its berries. The birds are very fond of the red ones as the rowan tree, or mountain ash. The leaves put their up in charming scarlet, apple shaped globes. The glow of the scarlet and orange of the hellebore is sufficient for them. The round white balls of the bush honeysuckle, or snow berry, cling through the early winter, complemented by the snowy branches and bare earth. Some berries, like the fleshy nightshade, are enclosed in a last measure and in varying after

the frosts have destroyed the plants, until the bared seeds finally find a place in the ground. On the contrary, others have such sweet juices that man is very willing to adopt them and be responsible for their propagation. Such are the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry, which are so frequently found in their wild state in the woods and fields.

It is a great item for all berries and pods to hang on through the winter, for the birds that do not go south, lacking other food, will gladly peck at them and carry them away, so the desired end is sure to be accomplished.

There are plants which have no unusual fashion of caring for their progeny. They quietly mature and while the season is still warm drop to the ground. In autumn the catnip seems sometimes to have turned its dried calyxes downward that the seeds might drop out more easily. The red-bud and honey locust have dry, long pods, which part in two and expose the equally thin and dry seeds to the action of the elements. The stickers and hurs lay hold of the clothes or hair of passing animals and force them to become unwelcome sowers of the seeds.

The jewelweed, which grows so plentifully along the rippling brooks, has a most ingenious method. It puts its seeds in a capsule, which bursts at a touch and sends them scattering broadcast. A more familiar example of its way of exploding is afforded by its sister, the balsam, or lady's slipper of the gardens. On account of this peculiarity the jewelweed is called the touch-me-not.

The wild geranium, or crane's bill, with hairy leaves and stems, whose pretty, purplish pink, round flower, over an inch in diameter, blooms in May, has another plan adapted to its own needs. Its five seeds, at first snugly tucked in a bed in the flower, later split away and apart, hang to the top of the stile and bound off.

The green water arum has the most peculiar way of them all. This plant is found only in exceedingly damp places. Its principal beauty is its large, finely shaped and stately leaves, much like those of its near relative, the calla lily. Its fruit is a bunch of green berries. In the fall the stem bearing them bends over and downward and by means of a sheaf at the top bores a hole in the wet mud and literally plants its own seeds.

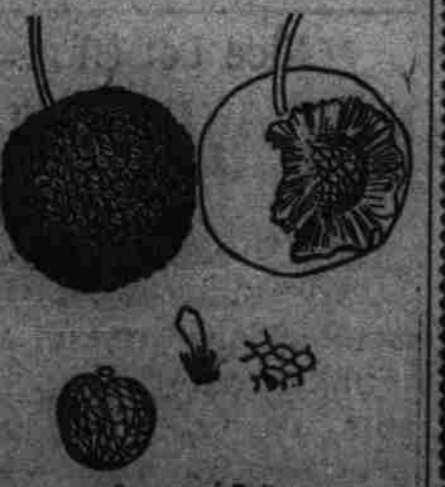
The cattail, brought in from the swamp in the late summer and placed in the vase in the house, bursts and showers the room with feathery bits. It is merely trying to sow its seeds and should have been standing out of doors. The bits did not all contain seeds. Some of them were the useless parts which had long ago fulfilled their mission.

The balls of the plane tree, or sycamore, do likewise. They cling to the branches during the winter, but when they are fully prepared burst quietly and send the haired seeds out to plant themselves.

The nuts appeal to the appetites of different small animals as well as boys. The red tip of the wild rose is an especially dainty which the field mice love and carry to their underground winter holes. The oak and chestnut need no assistance. Independent and strong as the oak is, it leaves nothing undone. The embryo within the shell is well protected, with plenty of food around it, both for it to feed upon and to keep it warm. It is also well guarded by a shell and is fitted to withstand the rigors of winter. The dampness of the rains and snows softens the enveloping shells so that they can be easily pierced by the growing germs of life within.

The ash and the maple trees fit their seed keys with sails so that a windy day will clatter them down and cause them to dance gayly on the dead grass. The pine tree shuts and locks her seed in the cupboard of the cone. Each scale is a little cupboard, and only when the seeds are ready will the scales separate and allow the two seeds within to escape and seek the ground. Each seed is armed with a small, thin sail to help it away.

Thus we see that all creatures of nature work together. The plant advertises first for the insects to help it



Sycamore Balls.

ripen and produce seed or fruit and then, again, for bird, beast or man to sow them.

The insects come gladly to the feast prepared to tempt them. So do the birds, beasts and men, for the palates of all are fairly sensitive, and we are thankful to enjoy the good things awaiting us. All for the wind, it follows everywhere, but in these instances its fun benefits others.

So dependent are the clovers upon the bees that the farmers in Australia could not produce a crop of clover seed from what they had imported until bees also were brought into the country. The clover fed the bees. It returns the best aided for fertilization of the clover, and the clover fed the bees. The bees took the sweets of the flowers and made wax and honey, and the clover furnished meat and drink. How much even the little insects are to us—how busy and how useful!

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Vice-President of Women's Democratic Clubs of Northern Ohio.

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Mrs. Laura S. Webb.

the change of life which was fast approaching. While visiting with a friend I noticed that she was taking your Wine of Cardui, and she was so enthusiastic about it that I decided to try a bottle. I experienced some relief the first month, so I kept on taking it for three months and now I menstruate with no pain and I shall take it off and on now until I have passed the climax. I do not dread it now, as I am sure that your Wine of Cardui will be of great benefit at this time."

Wine of Cardui is the remedy to re-inforce a woman against the shock that comes with the change of life. It re-establishes healthy functions after years of suffering. In doing this it has saved thousands of sufferers just in time. Do not wait until suffering is upon you. Thorough preparations should be made in advance. Begin the Wine of Cardui treatment today.

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### NOTICE!

North Carolina Superior Court, Lenoir County, before Plato Collins, Clerk. In re: the Estate of John D. Jarman, Guardian of Bertha Jarman and Bertha Jarman. Order of Sale. By virtue of a decree of the superior court rendered on the 20th day of December, 1902, in the above entitled case, the undersigned, as commissioner to the court will on the 15th day of January, 1903, at the court house door in Kinston, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described tract of land bounded as follows, to-wit: adjoining the lands of J. N. H. Taylor, Anthony Davis, John I. Davis and others in Pink Hill township, Lenoir county and known as the "Leary Place," and a part of the Anthony Davis' land. Time—15th day of January, 1903. Place—court house. Terms—cash. H. E. SHAW, Commissioner of the court.

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### Sale of Town Lot for Partition.

By virtue of an order made by the Superior Court of Lenoir County, on the 22d day of December, 1902, in a special proceeding for the sale of land, by partition entitled "Ray May Littleworth and J. E. Littleworth vs. John H. Coppola, III, Executor," the undersigned will offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, at the court house door, in Kinston, N. C., on Monday, the 15th day of January, 1903, the following described parcels of land, to-wit: being a part of the land of C. C. Wooten's lot on West side of Cassell street, 275 feet from corner of Third Avenue, and Cassell street, and 225 feet from corner of Third Avenue, and Cassell street, East 144 feet, thence South 60° 00' 00" West, 100 feet to Cassell street, thence West with top of Cassell street 50 feet to 150° 00' 00" West, the south side of December, 1902.

## NOTICE!

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the General Assembly, of North Carolina, at the session of 1903, for changes in the Charter of the Town of Kinston, N. C. By order of the Board of Aldermen. Dec. 15th, 1902. GEO. S. WEBB, Mayor, L. J. MEWBORNE, Clerk.

DRS F. A. & R. A. WHITAKER, PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, KINSTON, N. C.

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