

Children's Column.

LISTEN TO THE APRIL RAIN.

I love to stan' an' listen on the old barn floor, 'bout the fust o' April, when the rain comes down on the shingles with a steady, gentle roar, an' the grass is jes' a-greenin' all aroun'.

I love to stan' an' listen on the old barn floor, 'bout the fust o' April, 'fore the cows get out to grass, an' are lyin' in the stables handy by.

I love to stan' an' listen on the old barn floor, while the big lazy cows on their onds chew slow, an' watch the grass a-greenin' all the wide fields o'er.

—Sheldon C. Stoddard.

THE BOYS AND THE BIRDS.

Boys can do a good thing for the birds, the birds and the farm if they will early in their boys' lives get them into proper relations to the birds on the farm.

As soon as he can manage a gun, he naturally practices on the birds with that and only abandons killing when his father trusts him with a gun, but all the while he likes practice on the birds.

It is very easy to teach boys natural history on the farm, and one of the best places to begin is with the birds and their enemies, the insects.

Men and women are laboring and suffering but there more of it for Christ's sake or that of his cause than there is for the ordinary enterprises of life?

This is a wonderful power which God gives us when He first blesses us, and then sends us forth to bless others.

—Wallace's

Christian Life Column.

BREATHING AND PRAYING.

BY REV. MARK GUY PEARSE.

If we do not get breath it matters very little what else we get. Food, warmth, sleep, are of no avail if we cannot breathe.

Set before your mind the case of the diver who has to go down to work in the depths under the sea. The water is the breath of the fish, but it is death to him.

So are we in this world; the atmosphere is too dense for our new life. And yet our duty lies down here.

Nothing can take the place of this quiet walking with God. It were a mad folly to try to live without sleep or food; but what of the man who tries to live without breath?

Perhaps few confessed Christians would fail to stand the test of physical martyrdom and death if faced with the alternative of renouncing their Christian faith.

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This is a wonderful power which God gives us when He first blesses us, and then sends us forth to bless others.

—C. L. Goodell.

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Nature Study.

HINTS ON NATURE STUDY FOR MOTHERS AND TEACHERS.

No. 10 of the Series of Nature Study Articles Prepared for The Progressive Farmer by Mrs. F. L. Stevens, West Raleigh, N. C.

Argument for nature study is no longer necessary. Mothers wish to know how to direct their children to see and feel the wonderful life about them.

First there are a number of books that I shall designate as knowledge books for parents, teachers or children.

Another nature writer who interests both young and old with his interesting animal studies and keen appreciation of the quaint ways of wood folk, is John Burroughs.

Long's "Ways of Wood Folk," "Wilderness Ways and Secrets of the Woods," published by Ginn & Co., Boston, are most charming in style and introduce the reader to some of our shy neighbors in fur.

Equally fine in style is Frank M. Chapman's "Bird Life" published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

"First Studies in Plant Life," by Atkinson, published by Ginn & Co., has been written with the view of bringing the life processes of the plant within the reach of the child.

There are numerous books written directly indicating systematic work to be taken up by the common school teachers, for if nature study is to be of value it must be systematic.

—W. E. WEIHE, Raleigh, N. C.

ject to the season, introducing various branches of natural science, botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, mineralogy, etc. Another helpful book for teachers is published by D. C. Heath & Co. It is "Nature Study and the Child" by C. B. Scott.

The interest in nature study is so widespread that some States and educational institutions are issuing bulletins upon nature study which at little or no cost are accessible to the enthusiastic student.

The Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture has issued a Nature Study Leaflet edited by Miss Miller which is free in its systematic arrangement and wealth of suggestion.

For the very little folks at school and at home there is a wealth of material. I can mention a few series that seem especially attractive to the teacher as supplementary reading material at school or at home.

I have been delighted with The Field and Forest series by Chase issued in seven volumes, "Plant Babies" in two volumes by the same author are charming first year studies.

The entire movement in nature study is for the benefit of the children. The aim is to cause the child to love nature. Contentment and happiness are the results of thinking, and one thinks much when he sees much.

On one occasion, when a boarder had devoured everything eatable on the table within his reach, and when the landlady had supplied until her strength and patience were well nigh exhausted, she suddenly broke out with: "I shall certainly have to raise the price of your board!"

—Chicago Daily News.

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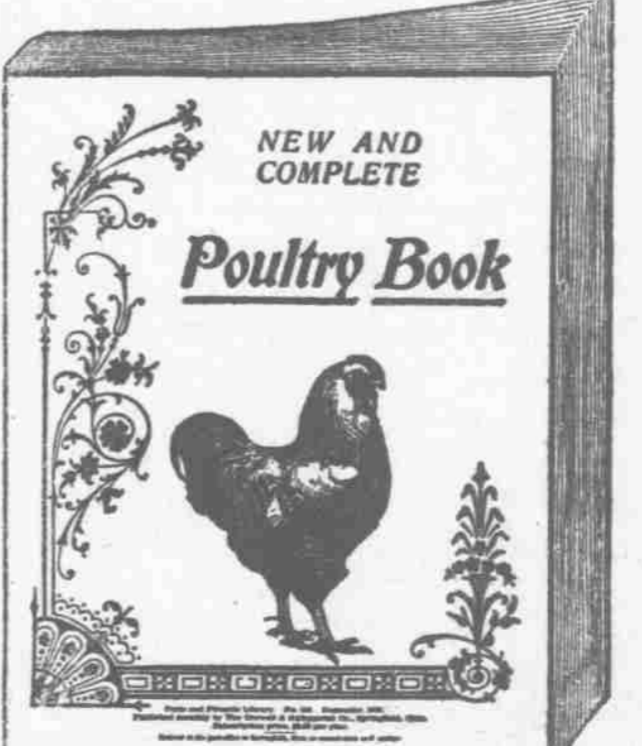
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