Children's Column.

LIST'NIN' TO THE APRIL BAIN.

Yes, I love to stan' an' listen on the old barn floor, 'Long 'bout the fusto' April, when

the rain comes down drummin' on the shingles with a steady, gentle roar, an' the grass is jes' a-greenin' all

eroun' Long bout the fust o' April, 'fore the cows get out to grass. An' are lyin' in the stables handy

Jes' a chewin' o' the cud An' a stirrin' up their blood, Fer they 'pear to know that pastur' time is nigh.

old barn floor; An' listen while the steady April rain jes' drips.

in'l kinder git to lookin' through the wide south door At the old creek medder where the fust cow-slips

By the creek's low borders are pokin' up their heads. Jes' to see what in natur's goin'

an' I kinder feel to lean To the yeller an' the green of the cowslips in the medder over you.

80 I love to stan' an' listen on the old barn floor, While the big lazy cows on their onds chew slow.

in' watch the grass a-greenin' all the wide fields o'er. For the early an' the late rains show that the golden time o' harvestin'

will never fail to come : 'N' I kinder git to love the April List'nin' on the old barn floor,

Gazin' through the big south watchin' this old 'arth green up

-Sheldon C. Stoddard.

THE BOYS AND THE BIRDS.

Maers can do a good thing for thebys, the birds and the farm if as will early in their boys' lives sthem into proper relations to the rison the farm. The small boy surally likes to throw stones at the tis. As soon as he can manage a k, he naturally practices on the is with that and only abandons sling when his father trusts him h a gun, but all the while he likes practice on the birds.

He should be taught from the very wishing that this is all wrong, that which are not bothering him, that whave the same right to live that has, and besides that the birds s his friends and his father's tends. They are friends because by please him with their songs; inds because they make war on enemies, the insects and the ed seeds. He should be taught at these two, the insects and the eds, make his father's life a bura; that if he don't want to pick wate bugs and pull weeds out of te corn, he must stand by the birds this he wants to eat apples with Mworms in them, that if he wishes befree from picking the worms of the strawberries and the curants, he must protect the birds.

It is very easy to teach boys nat-

Ital history on the farm, and one of the best places to begin is with the birds and their enemies, the insects. buch him to watch the blackbird or mobin picking the worms out of is sod on the lawn or in the fields Pettrage him to find out what parwalar varieties of worms injure the what birds eat them, and withim the names of the winter hand the weed seeds they devour. than to him that there is not a bird that is not a help to the mer; that while the robin may the cherries once in a while, tile the blackbird may take an oc ical grain of corn, and while the bird may be a thief on occasion a braggart and blowhard always, the good they do far more than Empenses for the evil. Teach conrage by pointing to the ex the of king bird, wich can lick Ming fifty times its size that flis agh the air. Don't tell him the are all saints. They are not. Thave their vices and their the but insist above all things there shall be peace between 44 all the birds that fly except ocasional chicken hawk that taken to the habit of stealing the English sparrow that its nest in the porch and

a off the song birds. he mothers will have to do all theause the fathers are all too or think they are, and besides War on the birds themselve they were boys.-Wallace's

of manners never can intrude.

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. The entering into the presence of God and communing with him is the renewal of our

spiritual atmosphere. 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. The condition of his life is that the air of this Tes. I love to stan' an' listen on the upper world be pumped down to him Then he goes down without fear, careful beforehand to see that all is right with the atmosphere above him, and careful, however deep he goes, or however busy he is, to keep the communication open with that upper world to which he belongs. He is not always thinking about his breathing, but he cannot do without it for a moment, and he knows better than to suffer any trifling with the apparatus that secures his safety.

> So are we in this world; the atmos phere is too dense for our new life. And yet our duty lies down here Well, fear not, go down; only first of all be sure about the communication with that higher life to which we belong. If that be broken off or neglected, we die. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me! is a cry for every life, and this hiding of ourselves with God in prayer is the adjusting of the apparatus with that source whence comes the breath of

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? That is what you are doing if you suffer prayer to dry up into a mere set of phrases, which are repeated without any thought of heart.

Prayer is more than a kneeling and asking something from Godmuch more. What we need is to get into the presence of God. We want the hallowing touch of God's own hand and the light of his countenance. Tarrying in His presence we must have the breath of God breathed into us again, renewing the life which he created at the first. This is the first, the great need of the life of holiness.—Christian Advocate.

DON'T WAIT FOR PERSECUTION!

Perhaps few confessed Christians would fail to stand the test of phystake or the sword, cries out that he little book knows not this Christ? Do not wait for another Boxer outbreak to prove your idelity to him. Do it to-day !- has been written with the view of Sunday School Times.

Men and women are laboring and suffering but is there more of it for tion is admirably adapted as a text Christ's sake or that of his cause than there is for the ordinary en terprises of life? Men visit the sick and minister to the poor, but do they evince any of the heroic spirit in the extent of sacrifices of this ministry? Men are giving to the enterprises of the Church and for the upbuilding by Mrs. Dana is a choice little book of humanity, but do any or many of them suffer as heroes in the giving? Do we have any or much heroic giving in these times; giving that amounts to suffering or sacrifice on the part of those who give? There is liberality, we know but does it amount to Christian heroism?-Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

This is a wonderful power which god gives us when He first blesses us, and then sends us forth to bless others. But it costs self sacrifice to that to me seem most helpful. I be a blessing.—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.

orrespondence of The Progressive Farmer. 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. Every teacher is fully alive to the demand for nature study in the school room. The question that both mothers and teachers are asking "How shall I begin?" "How can I prepare myself for this work?" The lover of nature will tell you to go out into the woods and fields and learn lessons direct from the Great Teacher. That means little to one whose eyes have been dulled by years of non-seeing. Contact with nature supplemented by association with some of the pioneers in this field of nature study through their writings is one of the surest ways to get a grasp upon the subject. It is then to some of the writers of this line that I would direct your at-

tention. First there are a number of books that I shall designate as knowledge books for parents, teachers or children. "Eye Spy" and "Sharp Eyes, " published by Harper Bros., New York, are unrivalled in artistic illustration and the close intimacy into which the author has come with nature. In his "Eye Spy" Mr. Gibson has confined himself more strict ly to the freaks of insect life; "Sharp Eyes" is really a calendar of seasons, noting the changes in plant and ani mal life that come with the passing of the months.

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. In his "Riverby" and his more recent "Squirrels and other Fur bearing Animals," published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, he has illustrated what is meant by the term "in touch with nature." Other books by Mr. Burroughs are well worthy of mention, but these are represen-

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. The books stand for good literature and scientific accuracy.

Equally fine in style is Frank M. Chapman's "Bird Life" published sical martyrdom and death if faced by D. Appleton & Co., New York. with the alternative of renouncing It is comprehensive; but not laboritheir Christian faith. Most of us ous in its treatment, is beautifully honestly believe that we would not illustrated and is quite the book for give up Christ under such circum- a family library. Olive Thorne Milstances, and the testing times of ler has also added much to the knowlpersecution have always brought edge of birds, their interesting habits forth abundant Christian heroism and cunning ways. One of her reand loyalty to the Master. But for cent books, "The First Book of those of us who would expect to find Birds." published by Houghton, strength to stand the fierce tests Mifflin & Co., deals with the sociothat come to so few in these Chris- logical side of bird life and is most tian days, how ignominous are our sympathetic in its treatment. An daily failures under the tests of other delightful, readable book on every-day life! How thoughtlessly, birds has been written by Mr. T. how complacently, how constantly, Gilbert Pearson, of this State. In we dishonor Him whose name we his stories of bird life he has shown bear! Are we not renouncing him a close intimacy with the birds he when, in the face of temptation, we has introduced into his stories and refuse to receive from him the has in a most subtle way suggested strength that we know is ours if we a moral lesson without forcing the will? Are we any better than the subject upon the reader. B. F. John persecuted one who, to escape the son & Co., are the publishers of this

> "First Studies in Plant Life," by Atkinson, published by Ginn & Co., bringing the life processes of the plant within the reach of the child. The book both in style and presentabook for school use or it may be used to good advantage by the reader at home. Bailey's "Plant Studies," (Ginn & Co.), is still another book that will interest both the young naturalist and older students of plants. "Plants and Their Children" for the young botanist. This book is published by American Book Co. "Ten Common Trees" by Susan Stokes is a delightful introduction to the subject of forest trees. (Americian Book Co)

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. Of these books I can only indicate a few would mention "Jackman's Nature Study," published by Henry Holt. In this book Mr. Jackman takes up work by months adapting the sub- [Route 4.] 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. First the author lays a foundation by a treatment of the subject in itself; then he proposes a plan of work for the grades carrying the work systematically through the year and lastly gives illustration of what has been accomplished by this plan in various schools. The book is admirable for the teacher who, unprepared by scientific training, wishes to take up this work in her school. Another less comprehensive book but rich in suggestion comes from California: 'Lessons in Nature Study,' by Jenk ins and Kellogg, is the title, and is the direct result of work accomplished in one of the graded schools

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. First and earliest are the Cornell Bulletins issued by the Nature Study Bureau at that institution. These are valuable additions to any nature study library. The March number of the "Teachers College Record" published by Columbia University, N. Y., contains outlies for a very valuable course in nature study together with an excellent list of the literature on the subject.

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. The Indiana Nature Leaflets are also well worthy of mention.

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 to the teacher as supplementary reading material at school or at

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. This series is issued by the Educational Publishing Company. The same Company also publishes another series which have been well received, "Leaves from Nature's Story Book," by Kelly.

The "Sea Side and Way Side" Series, "Griel's Glimpses of Nature," "From September to June," by M. L. Warren, published by Heath, are captivating in style, and rich in information. For first year reading the last two mentioned are among the very best books of this nature that have yet appeared.

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. "When all is said and done, it will be found that the significant mark of this century is not its invention nor its learning: it is the spirit of altruism which sacrifices everything that the child may have a fuller life."

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!' "Don't think of doing such a thing," he replied. "It is nearly killing me now to eat all I pay for, and should you raise my board and compel me to eat more, it will be the death of me."-Exchange.

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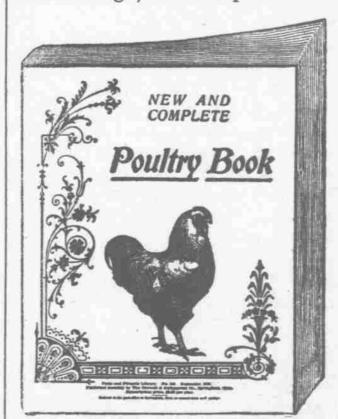
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