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Editor and Advisory Board

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SCIENCE BULLETIN

Editor-in-Chief: W. H. Kadesch. Advisory Board: Dr. L. Begeman, Head, Department of Physical Science; Dr. E. J. Cable, Head Department of Natural Science.

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PLANNING THE YEAR'S WORK

One of the important things for the science teacher to do at this season is to lay definite plans for the work of the semester or year. One way to do this is to entrust everything to the text book. If the number of pages to be covered is divided by the number of available class periods the quotient is the number of pages to be covered in each recitation. In certain respects the plan works admirably. It provides for the consideration of all phases of the subject with something like the proper share of time to each. It guards against the introduction of irrelevant material, and especially against the sacrifice of time on teacher's hobbies. It requires only a minimum of effort on the part of the teacher, whose schedule may already be crowded with other and perhaps unrelated subjects. If interest on the part of the student soon flags and dies—well, that is only a natural consequence.

Another method of planning is to set up specific aims, in terms of projects to be undertaken, subject matter to be studied, experiences to be gained, etc. In this case the text book no longer is the master. It has become the servant—perhaps only one of many servants, any of which may be called upon at will to assist in the accomplishment of the purposes for which the course is given.

Plan your work carefully, then carefully work your plan.

QUESTION BOX

Questions submitted before the end of the month will be answered in the next number of the Bulletin.

Question:

What coniferous trees and shrubs are native to Iowa?

Answer:

White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*), Balsam Fir (*Abies Balsamea*), Red Cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*), common Juniper (*Juniperus Communis*), Creeping Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*), American Yew (*Taxus Canadensis*). With the exception of the red cedar, which is widely distributed over the state, these trees and shrubs are found mostly in north-eastern Iowa.

Question:

Does the Moon have any influence upon the Earth?

Answer:

There is a popular belief that the moon, our nearest neighbor, exerts a profound influence upon the weather; that the proper time of planting of crops and vegetables, their growth and development; the curing and preserving of meat; humidity and temperature of the atmosphere, all depend upon a particular phase of the moon. Extensive research carried on within recent years has offered no support for these wide-spread superstitious notions. The moon does, however, produce one profound effect on the earth in the formation of tides, and, no doubt, in a slight degree, affects the magnetic field of the earth. To what extent these magnetic disturbances influence weather no one at the present time can say. It is probable that the effect is negligible.

Question:

What poisonous snakes are found in the United States?

Answer:

The southern water-moccasin, the cop-