

GLEANINGS FROM NATURE. By W. S. Blatchley. 8vo. Indianapolis, 1899.

Elementary books of general natural history dealing in a scientifically accurate but popular way with common objects of the country are by far too few. The general statement may be made that everyone is largely interested in natural history, although many do not know it until an accidental occurrence turns their attention to something which forms a stepping-stone into the wondrous fairyland in which the naturalist lives.

Professor Blatchley has recently published some of his "Gleanings from nature" in a well printed, particularly well illustrated, neat volume of 350 pages. This book is based upon extensive observations made directly from nature in the woods and fields of Indiana, and is an effort, and a most successful one, to present, in language that all can understand, primarily, to the 800,000 boys and girls on the farms of Indiana to whom it is dedicated, facts concerning some of the commoner plants and animals which are our friends, our helpers and our neighbors in the country. The first chapter is appropriately entitled Harbingers of Spring. The chapters are, for the most part, short and are crisply written, showing that the matter presented has been gathered by the writer from his own observations and gives the idea that he knew more about the subjects treated of than it was convenient to write about in the present volume. Prof. Blatchley has made a special study of several branches of natural history. These, as might be expected, are treated of at rather greater length than others. It may be thought by some who do not live in the Hoosier State that an undue space is given to the Indiana caves, but it must be remembered that these are of special interest to those for whom the book was written, and others will be well repaid a perusal of Gleanings from Nature by several other chapters on subjects seldom written about: The chapters on Snakes, Birds, and Katydid and their Kin, are specially attractive. Twelve Winter Birds and Plants and Animals in Winter, will be read with pleasure by all whether naturalists or not.

Two or three of the illustrations are particularly beautiful.



Special attention may be drawn to these of the Skunk Cabbage, the Banded Rattlesnake, Washington's Monument in the Marengo Cave and Winter Birds.—J. F.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The first of the General Excursions of the Club will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 26th, when Chelsea, that favorite and most picturesque hunting ground of our local naturalists, will be again visited. This locality presents such a variety of attractions that it is never exhausted. The convenience of reaching it too by the Gatineau Valley Railway makes it possible to enjoy an excursion into this beautiful part of the country and return again to Ottawa thoroughly tired out and satisfied, at the expense of only half a day's time. As usual, leaders in all the different branches will be in attendance, willing and anxious to give assistance to all desiring information concerning their favorite studies. Addresses will be delivered at the end of the day, and the excursion will start at the ordinary time advertised by the railway, leaving Ottawa somewhere about 1 o'clock, and returning about 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening. The summer time-table is not yet published, but this will be about the time. Tickets will be obtainable from members of the Council, who will be in attendance at the railway station a quarter of an hour before the train starts. It is hoped that some Fellows of the Royal Society will be present.



Fletcher, James. 1900. "Gleanings from Nature, by W. S. Blatchley [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 14(1-2), 35-36.

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