

completely and securing firmly, those first truths in any science which make its foundation: and you will be that which shall be the first choice. The University of London has made a *Regulation* that every student, before being admitted to Examination for his First Degree, shall be examined, among other subjects, in "The characters and differences of the principal Natural Classes and Orders belonging to the Flora of Europe, according to the Botanical classification of De Candolle." This then *fixes the first step* in a scientific education; and a more judicious determination could not well be conceived. It will now be the duty of parents and instructors every where, to lay this foundation in early life. From their tenth or twelfth year, boys and girls should be led to acquaint themselves with every species in the fields, hedges, and woods within their reach. It will be the most salutary recreation from the toils of school; it will be a strong barrier against indolence and dissipation; and it will draw on to Zoology and all other departments of natural knowledge, by obvious and even necessary bands of affinity. Though but a small number of our young men through the land may come to be examined for degrees, the spirit of the Regulation ought to operate to the widest extent; and I trust it will. It has led Dr. Lindley (Prof. Bot. Univ. Coll. Lond.) to compose his new work, "School Botany;" for the express purpose of promoting this object. He gives the monition: "It is *necessary* that boys should prepare themselves for it before they leave school; and therefore it will be a part of the duty of school-masters to cause their highest classes to be taught the kind [i. e. the system] of Botany required by the University." Undoubtedly it has been from mature consideration that the Council has fixed upon M. De Candolle's System, instead of the more operose and difficult one of Dr. Lindley himself: but it has the unwelcome result of counteracting in some measure the use of his own valuable works. It was hoped that the System which he has elaborated through so many years of study and exertion, would have come into universal and permanent use. However, for inconveniences like this, there is no remedy but acquiescence: and let it be our consolation that De Candolle's System has already made sure of acceptance among all nations. Perhaps Dr. Lindley will construct anew his principal works, to the great benefit of students. It will be needful and easy for them to add a competent acquaintance with the Linnæan System, for many indispensable purposes. To this study there is a delightful Introduction expressly for young persons, by Mr. Francis, just published, "The Little English Flora:" but they must not dispense with the works of Withering, or Sir James E. Smith, or Sir W. J. Hooker.— Besides the sentiment which has occasioned this too long note, we ought not to be insensible to the *direct* benefit of botanical knowledge, economically and in agriculture, as well as in relation to Medicine and general science.