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## Harry B. Brown Letter

William Hall Smith

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**PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY RURAL SCHOOL  
W. H. SMITH, SUPERVISOR  
JACKSON, MISS.



November 11, 1913

Prof. Harry B. Brown  
A. and M. College, Mississippi

Dear Mr Brown:-

On account of the Fair and matters pertaining to my work both in the office and out in the field, I have been unable to give consideration to the questions asked in your letter of several days ago. I shall now endeavor to give you my ideas in regard to the questions asked ;

In the country schools it will be necessary to arrange a course of study in plant and animal life so that it could be presented to two or three grades at once. For instance in the one-teacher schools, the course would apply to say, the 5th, 6th and 7th grades, or to the 6th, 7th and 8th grades in a group. Having, say, from two to three lessons a week in plant life and a corresponding number in animal life through a session of five to six months. This same course of study can be used in the three and two-teacher school for the intermediate grades, while the more advanced grades could take up other phases of the work, extend their study through bulletins, text-books on botany, zoology, etc. The purpose of the course, as I have it in mind, is to reach a group of intermediate grades and to be a part of a one-year course. It is my purpose in working out this course of study to have published your suggestions on plant life in the same bulletin covering all the subjects of the public school course.

The teachers will be supposed to carry the children out into the fields for observation and can prepare in the school room germination boxes for the testing and study of corn and other field and garden seed. It will hardly be convenient for the country schools to keep the school house heated over Saturday and Sunday. We have no course of study on plant life or nature study for the schools of the State. This is really our first attempt.

It seems to me in regard to your last suggestion, that a good plan would be to give in outline what you



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think ought to be accomplished in one year by the grades indicated and then furnish model lessons on the study of corn, the tomato, or some other common field crop for Mississippi. This could be done with the understanding that similar lessons could be prepared by the teacher for the study of other plants grown in the fields and forests.

Thanking you very heartily for your interest in this important work and assuring you that I shall be glad to assist you in any way possible,

I am,

Cordially your friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "W. H. Smith".