

## HAS MADE 18 SA BICYCLES SO SCARCE

**WE'RE SORRY WAR** 

models will be better than

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## SUBURBAN SHOWCASE



## In Praise of Window-Gazing

(Written for "The Listener" by J.B.B.)

been included in the school curriculum, largely because it is supposed to train the child's powers of observation, and to this end large numbers of children are taken on periodical expeditions to the less built-up areas, that they may observe the throstle building its nest or the busy bee flitting from flower to flower. But, we ask ourselves, does not the town offer opportunities as varied as the country for training the child's powers of observation? More varied, in

Too often the advantages of the country as a field of observational study has been cried at the expense of the

ATURE study has always town, and country dwellers have come to feel that they have the monopoly of writing letters to the editor beginning "Dear Sir, I feel sure your readers will be interested in the fact that last Wednesday I was fortunate enough to surprise a crested buzzard in the act of feeding her young." But think of the many occasions on which the suburbdweller could write, "Dear Sir, I am sure your readers will be surprised to hear that yesterday morning on my way to the office, I observed a King Charles spaniel closely followed by one green rabbit and preceded by another." Yet so common have sights such as this become to the city or suburb dweller that he does not even consider them worthy of comment. The hapless schoolchild, equipped with exercise-book, must spend many weary hours in the country before he can hope to fill a single page with noteworthy phenomena, whereas if he were turned loose in a suburban street we could guarantee his notebook full in two hours.

And-a further point-consider the respective feelings of Crested Buzzard and King Charles Spaniel, The crested buzzard is averse to being disturbeddid he court attention he would scarcely bury himself in some sequestered glen. The spaniel, on the other hand, brazenly hids for attention by turning his back on the room he inhabits and staring out with unblushing cheek at the passer-by. He invites our comments, the defenceless buzzard does not.

 $m W^{E}$  would, therefore, recommend that school children in our towns be encouraged to take up suburban window study as an alternative to nature study, if by suburban window study is meant not the indulgence of vulgar curiosity in regard to what the inhabitants are having for lunch or dinner (this would be comparable to spying on the crested buzzard), but the examination and evaluation of those objects d'art which, by their position on the window-sill, exist apparently for the sole purpose of educating, amusing or edifying the

(Continued on next page)

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