In a sense, Alice was the first woman pedologist, without knowing it. She entered into the realm of soils in a moment when she was "burning with curiosity", not about an animal that burrows in it. That Alice never became a recognized pedologist in her maturity, as a result of her accidental childhood entry into the subject, is not surprising. Soil Science was not widely recognized till later.

We read that Alice ran unhesitatingly into the rabbit hole and promptly fell for a considerable time down its vertical segment. It is during this amazing fall that she had her first lesson in cation exchange, given in the form of analogy: shelves for exchange sites, articles, such as an empty marmalade jar, for cations. She even participated in a simulated exchange event when she moved a jar from one shelf to another, downward translocating it in the process. Her thoughts then digressed to geographic subjects and fauna (especially cats and bats) in a manner not unlike the digressing that goes on during field correlation trips among soil scientists. The fall came to an end as she dropped "thump" on a patch of Olb horizon that was fortunately thick enough to prevent bodily injury. In the pre-pedological culture of her period, this horizon was simply referred to as "a heap of sticks and dry leaves."

The second chapter introduces Alice to salinity problems; and social conflict among recreation-seekers thronging beaches of salt-water bodies. I find penciled in the margin of the book the following versus. They were obviously added during our present pedological era.

How doth the quick pedologist
Improve his shining map,
And with many a toss of foot and wrist
Complete its every gap!