

interpretation of a system with which we must desire to be acquainted. We only strongly recommend to the student a careful comparison of the opinions and statements of Professor Greene, with what he will find in the volume of Agassiz, on the Acalephæ. In this short notice of a useful summary we cannot discuss the disputed questions, but they are of such leading importance, as to affect the use of the work as a text book, where its doctrines are not received.

W. H.

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*Outlines of Elementary Botany, as Introductory to Local Floras.*

By George Bentham, Esq., V.P.L.S. London: Lovell Reeve. 1861.

We have here a work of small size and modest pretensions, but of the highest merit. It proceeds from one of the first botanists of our age—one who most eminently unites with great opportunities and a careful observation of facts, sound judgment and logical habits of mind. We have here in the compass of five and forty pages, the substance of volumes, and the means, with careful study and reflection, of laying a good foundation for the highest botanical acquirements. So clear and accurate is our author's language, that he seems independent of pictorial illustrations, and much as these seem sometimes to assist beginners, they are so apt to be misused for saving labour which ought to be gone through, that if they were confined to the lecture-room of the teacher, the loss to science would not be great. So very much do we admire Mr. Bentham's work, that we reluctantly notice faults, though of secondary importance, and detracting little from the general merit. At p. 18, ¶ 100, he says: "The Corolla is said to be *Monopetalous* when the petals are united, either entirely or at the base only, into a cup, tube, or ring; *polypetalous* where they are all free from the base. These expressions, established by a long usage, are not strictly correct, for *monopetalous* (consisting of a single petal,) should apply rather to a corolla really reduced to a single petal, which would then be on one side of the axis; and *polypetalous* is sometimes used more appropriately for a corolla with an indefinite number of petals. Some modern botanists have, therefore, proposed the term *gamopetalous* for the corolla with united petals, and *dialypetalous* for that with free petals; but the old established expressions are still most generally used."

We apprehend it to be a proper aim of writers like Mr. Bentham,