

PREFACE

The natural foundation of Botany is *field-work*. Book-Botany can never supply the place of actual work with the plants themselves. If the student does not know the living, growing plants when he has completed his course in Botany, he has not acquired very much that is really worth while. There is, moreover, good reason to suppose that the present courses in our high schools are not proving the success that their introduction promised. The fault is not that the courses outlined are unscientific; the trouble arises from the fact that "field-work" is the foundation by which such courses are made meaningful. Not knowing how to "read the fields," students are memorizing texts, surely a useless expenditure of time and energy. To place matters on a rational footing, this work, of which the present little volume forms the first part, has been undertaken, at the suggestion of several eminent educationists. Several typical prairie flowers are described in Chapters I. to XII.; extra botanical terms may be introduced by the teacher as needed. No time is lost in getting at a classification of plants, and an extensive list of common Canadian plants is placed at the end of the text.

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