

## PREFACE

In presenting this volume to working botanists the hope is indulged that it may also prove of service to engineers and especially to foresters. During its progress through the press various opportunities have been offered for testing not only the accuracy and value of the diagnoses for the recognition of woods about the identity of which there was some doubt, but also its general application to the elucidation of important questions relating to practical forestry; and the fact that such a work is greatly needed at this time, and may materially assist in the development of modern forestry, has been strongly emphasized. An important field for useful research may be found in an extension of the studies here indicated, not only with respect to exotic gymnosperms, but in their application to dicotyledonous woods, many of which present problems of great scientific interest and practical value.

An effort has been made to keep the work up to date, especially with respect to the treatment of fossil woods, but the author is only too conscious of many imperfections which it is hoped the application of the book to practical service may assist in making clear and ultimately removing.

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