

GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF COMMON PLANTS; AN INTRODUCTION TO BOTANY; BY VOLNEY M. SPAULDING, BOSTON. D. C. HEATH & Co., 1893. 8vo., pp. 246.

When all the attendant conditions are fully considered, the question as to how modern botany may be taught in the best way, is one which does not admit of ready solution in such a manner as to meet the requirements of even the majority of cases, yet there seems to be a fairly general agreement upon one point, and that is laboratory work—a living, practical acquaintance with the object to be studied—must in the future more completely replace the old text book methods.

The little book before us has methods from a recognition of these facts, and an attempt on the part of the author to outline what, to him, appears to be a desirable method of procedure for students who are pursuing a high school course, or a course preparatory to the university or college.

A chapter of advice to the student contains many hints to the student, which are both opportune and valuable, while upon the teacher is impressed the idea that for the proper study of modern botany, the subject must be pursued from a practical point of view and with plenty of simple laboratory appliances. And here the author gives the real way to the discipline of students, whom he shows that to get a pupil thoroughly interested in an important line of work, where hands, eyes and all the faculties are fully engaged, is to secure a discipline that can be attained in no other way—a result which alone more than compensates for the expense of equipment.

The subject matter of the book deals with the plant from the standpoint of its life history—the idea of development being the leading one. The absence of illustrations is to be regretted, but notwithstanding this, it is likely to prove a useful manual in the hands of a competent teacher. If it accomplishes no other object than to give an impetus to the establishment of laboratories for elementary biological work in our various schools, it will have done well. The fact that it was written in response to inquiries from teachers preparing pupils for university examinations is significant.

D. P. P.

BOTANICAL LABORATORY,
McGill University, Oct. 1893.

A READER IN BOTANY. PART II. FLOWER AND FRUIT. SELECTED AND ADAPTED FROM WELL KNOWN AUTHORS BY JANE H. NEWELL, BOSTON. GINN & Co., 1893. 8vo., pp. 179. ILL.

The structure of the flower and its many remarkable adaptations to the visitation of insects, and the purposes of cross fertilization, is a subject that has always been invested with special interest for