

PREFACE

THIS book is intended to help those who would study animal life. From different points of view I have made a series of sketches. I hope that when these are united in the mind of the reader, the picture will have some truth and beauty.

My chief desire has been to give the student some impulse to joyousness of observation and freedom of judgment, rather than to satisfy that thirst for knowledge which leads many to intellectual insobriety. In pursuance of one of the aims of this series, I have also tried to show how our knowledge of animal life has grown, and how much room there is for it still to grow.

A glance at the table of contents will show the plan of the book ; first, the everyday life of animals, next, their internal activities, thirdly, their forms and structure, and finally, the theory of animal life. This is a commonly accepted mode of treatment, and it is one by which it is possible in different parts of the book to appeal to students of different tastes. For, in lecturing to those who attend University Extension Courses, I find that seniors are most interested in the general problems of evolution, heredity, and environment ; that others care more about the actual forms of life and their structure ; that many desire to have a clear understanding of the functions of the animal body ; while most wish to study the ways of living animals, their struggles and loves, their homes and