

REVIEW,
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MOSESSES WITH A HAND-LENS AND MICROSCOPE. A NON-TECHNICAL HAND-BOOK OF THE MORE COMMON MOSESSES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. By A. J. Grout, Ph. D. Parts I, II and III, published by the author, 360 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, N. Y. \$1.00 a part.

In his preface Dr. Grout says: "Mosses are individually so small and inconspicuous that the effect which they have as a mass in creating and enhancing the beauty of natural scenery is often overlooked," and as he later points out many would have collected and studied them had not the difficulties been so numerous and hard to overcome. It is to lessen the number of these difficulties that "Mosses with a Hand-lens and Microscope" has been published. A short review of "Mosses with a Hand-lens" was printed in THE NATURALIST a few months ago. Useful as that book is to young students it cannot compare in value with Dr. Grout's later and more exhaustive work. The same methods have been used but the hand-lens being replaced by the microscope it has been possible to refer to many microscopic distinctions that could not be detected at all, or only with great difficulty, by a hand-lens. Though purporting to be only a hand-book of the mosses of the northeastern United States, nearly all eastern Canadian species are included.

The first 46 pages of Part I are divided into (1) Introduction (2) Classification and Nomenclature. (3) The Collection and Preservation of Mosses. (4) How to mount Mosses. (5) Methods of Manipulation. (6) Life-History and structure of the moss plant. (7) Illustrated glossary of bryological terms. The description of species and the characterization of genera and orders is so exact that any one familiar with moss terminology should have little difficulty in determining the species he collects.

Heavy coated paper, new type and illustrations without number add to the value as well as the appearance of what must be considered the most important work that has yet been published on American mosses. No other book will be needed by any moss-student except the specialist.

JOHN MACOUN.