

PREFACE.

(THE ten Lectures of which this volume is composed were delivered at St. John's Wood, England, to an audience of young people, who were so deeply interested that the author was induced to publish the addresses that they might be a source of pleasure to a wider circle of young people, and at the same time awaken in them a love of nature and of the study of science.

The circulation of the book in the Old Land has been enormous, and it has also enjoyed great popularity in the United States, having been used in several Reading Courses.

It is hoped that the study of this volume will prove interesting and instructive to the young people of the Epworth League, and act as an incentive to them to still further pursue a subject so intensely fascinating.

The author, in the original edition, says: "The Lectures have been entirely re-written from the short notes used when they were delivered. With the exception of the first of the series, none of them have any pretensions to originality, their object being merely to explain well-known natural facts in simple and pleasant language.

"Throughout the whole book I have availed myself freely of the leading popular works on science, but have found it impossible to give special references, as nearly all the matter I have dealt with has long been the common property of scientific teachers."