

It is often said that the high-school pupil should begin the study of botany with the lowest and simplest forms of life. This is wrong. The microscope is not an introduction to Nature. It is said that the physiology of plants can be best understood by beginning with the lower forms. This may be true: but technical plant physiology is not a subject for the beginner. Other subjects are more important. . . . Good botanical teaching for the young is replete with human interest. It is connected with the common associations. . . . When beginning to teach about plants, one should think more of the pupil than of botany. The pupil's mind and sympathies are to be expanded; not the science of botany to be extended. The teacher who thinks first of his subject teaches science; he who thinks first of his subject teaches nature study. . . . The old way of teaching botany was to teach the forms and the names of plants. It is now proposed that only function be taught. But one cannot study function intelligently without some knowledge of plant forms and names. He must know the language of the subject. The study of form and function should therefore go together. Correlate what a plant is with what it does. What is this plant? What is its office, or how did it come to be? It were a pity to teach phyllotaxy without teaching light relation: it were an equal pity to teach light relation without teaching phyllotaxy."

Of the book itself there is little need to speak. The subject matter is excellently edited; the illustrations are elaborately profuse—perhaps unnecessarily so—mostly half-tones; the paper and binding are of the best. It is an exceedingly attractive volume, and there is not a dull page between its handsome covers.

We shall watch the success of this book, which in a measure is a reversion to former botanical teaching ideals, with a great deal of interest. There is unquestionably a tendency on the part of the advanced teacher of botany to cater to the specialist in scientific botany rather than to the student who wishes to study plants. I think this book has a distinct mission and will find a large constituency awaiting.

J. CRAIG.