

The book is accompanied by a good geological map, and is altogether a most valuable book of reference to the working geologist, whether in England or abroad.

A NATURALIST'S RAMBLES ABOUT HOME; second edition. revised, pp. 485, New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1887

UPLAND AND MEADOW, pp. 389, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1886.

WASTE-LAND WANDERINGS, pp. 312, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1887.

All of the above works are from the pen of Dr. Chas. C. Abbott, of Trenton, N. J., and are so related in style and matter that they may be reviewed together.

They recount Dr. Abbott's experiences in an ordinary tract of country, no better provided by nature than thousands of others; and yet, it seems to have furnished to him themes that at once absorbed his own interest, and in the relation of which he charms the reader, who has any love for nature, into a kind of spell. And what is the real secret of the fascination of these works? We think it lies in the fact that the author has taken Nature's children to his own bosom; he has loved them, and they have, therefore, not refused to give up their secrets, and in such case they never will. What Dr. Abbott has learned, others can learn if they will pursue the same methods. It may be that all may not be able to pour out, in such an artless yet charming manner, what they wish to convey.

No better books than these can be put into the hands of young people. The person that cannot see anything to love in natural objects in his own surroundings after perusing such books, is hopeless. They give what ordinary works, on natural history, fail to do: the methods, step by step, by which the author's knowledge was reached, so that the reader feels stimulated to pursue the same plan; and thus the indirect value of such works becomes far greater than the direct.

We would emphasize another matter. Dr. Abbott's *experiments*, though apparently simple, and in reality simple, are just the kind that in our opinion, are most reliable. He arranged to see animals act under conditions perfectly natural. Such constitutes the very essence of trustworthy experiment. Inferences, under such circumstances, are absolutely reliable, which is more than can often be said of methods more complicated.

The moral effect of such reading is of the best. It makes one feel that there is more in the world to admire than man and his works; and that man is himself but a part of a harmonious whole, though it is his fortune to be at the top.