

## PREFACE.

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IN the entire absence of any handbook of zoölogy adapted to the grade of work in which he was engaged, the author began to draw up, for use in his own classes, simple guides to the study of a few common animals. After repeated tests in the class-room, and under the advice of a number of eminent teachers of the subject, it was decided to put the work into print.

The author takes this opportunity to thank those who have so heartily aided him in this undertaking.

Prof. Alpheus Hyatt, of the Boston Society of Natural History, has generously aided in preparing the book for publication.

Pres. D. S. Jordan, of Indiana University, has read most of the manuscript and proof-sheets, and has given many valuable suggestions.

Especial thanks are due also to H. Garman, Assistant-Professor of Zoölogy, University of Illinois, for corrections and suggestions on the entire manuscript and on the proofs.

Mr. B. H. Van Vleck, Assistant, Boston Society of Natural History, revised the manuscript on Echinoderms, Cœlenterates, and Sponges.

As the proof-sheets appeared, from time to time, they were critically read by Prof. N. S. Shaler, Harvard