
Plant Life and Plant Uses by John G. Coulter, published by the American Book Company, represents a new type of elementary botany for the high school. It is a very interesting book and its method if intelligently followed will go far to place elementary botany on a firm basis in the high school curriculum. The author has presented a book that corresponds to the capacity of high school children. Too often college professors who have written high school texts have lost sight of the fact that they were addressing immature minds that needed direction and a sympathetic attitude rather than the dry facts and abstractions of a science suitable for the mature college student or graduate. This book followed by a course in elementary agronomy should make an ideal course in what some are now pleased to call "agriculture." If the new "elementary agriculture" now being exploited is to be taught without a basis of knowledge of plants it will accomplish little of value. But even an elementary knowledge of agriculture based on an elementary knowledge of plants should give us a far better practice on the farm, and in the garden than we have had in the past. In city schools the course outlined in the book might well be followed by special courses on trees, gardening and household and food plants in which all city people should have an interest.

J. H. S.