
Botany

The book is designed as a text for one semester of elementary botany or for the first half of a biology course. It deals in a simple way with some of the basic facts and principles of plant science. The organization is rather unique, permitting the instructor to interest his class in the first lessons with discussions of plants as they have been observed by the student in the field. Sections concerned with root types, leaf arrangements, buds, stem types, and leaf types are followed by one on vegetative reproduction.

With a knowledge of the gross structure of plants as a background, the author proceeds with a more critical examination of cells and vegetative tissues. The more important physiological relationships and processes are discussed. The subject of growth substances is disposed of in two sentences. The author apparently considers the external environmental factors all important in determining plant distribution since little or no reference is made to the physiology of the plant in this connection. Considerable attention is given to the subjects of flower parts and seed classification. Chapters on floral evolution, pollination, seeds and seedlings are followed by one dealing with heredity and plant breeding.

The last half of the book is reserved for a survey of the plant kingdom, a discussion of characteristics of the chief families of Angiosperms, and fossil plants. Evolution, heredity and adaptation have received special consideration. Plant examples have been taken from among those most familiar to the student. Illustrations are well chosen, abundant, and finely reproduced. Throughout the book the author assigns functions to the organs and tissues. Purposeful explanations are frequently given. Morphology assumes the limelight while very little attention is paid to the physiological status of the plant with regard to structure, distribution, or the expression of hereditary potentialities.—*R. A. Popham.*

An Introduction to Botany, by Arthur W. Hampt. xii+396 pp. New York, The McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1938. \$3.00.