

**THE GARDEN OF EARTH, A
LITTLE BOOK ON PLANT-LIFE,
PLANT-GROWTH, AND THE
WAYS AND USES OF PLANTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649256150

The garden of earth, a little book on plant-life, plant-growth, and the ways and uses of plants by
Agnes Giberne

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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AGNES GIBERNE

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WAYS AND USES OF PLANTS**



A Sub-tropic Garden.

THE GARDEN OF EARTH

*A Little Book on Plant-life, Plant-growth,
and the Ways and Uses of Plants*

BY

AGNES GIBERNE

AUTHOR OF

"THIS WONDERFUL UNIVERSE," "THE ROMANCE OF THE MIGHTY DEEP," ETC.

"When Spring unlocks the Flowers to paint the
laughing soil."—REGINALD HEBER.

"O then indeed I knew how closely knit
To Stars and Flowers we are."—ALFRED NOYES.

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FOREWORD

It does not fall to the lot of most people to be able to devote much time to Botany. This book does not pretend to be even an introduction to that delightful pursuit. Given, however, a certain admiration for the beauties of the garden and countryside, Miss Giberne's book is calculated to enlarge it into a feeling of friendship for the individuals of the vegetable kingdom. The authoress gracefully draws aside the veil and shows the wind, the bees, and the flowers at play. The reader is encouraged to step among them, and to look for himself.

Any one who had been content with the usual superficial observation of Nature, and who is hereby introduced into an intimate acquaintance with the game and with its players, will have to thank this book for a new and very charming friendship with the animated but previously unnoticed world around him.

S. T. DUNN, B.A.

Formerly Official Guide in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

PREFACE

AN unpretentious little volume, on the subject of Plant-life and the ways and needs and doings of Plants, is all that my book can claim to be. It is, indeed, in no sense a Manual of Botany; and it is meant for beginners, whether older or younger, as well as for any who love and are interested in trees and flowers.

In the writing of it I have gained needed information from many different sources; more especially from *The Natural History of Plants*, by Kerner and Oliver. Also generous help has been given to me by Mr. S. T. Dunn of the Kew Gardens Staff, for which I am sincerely grateful. Nor can I refrain from a warm mention of the debt which I owe to my Father's early and unforgettable teachings on this subject.

In addition I thank Mr. Alfred Noyes, Mr. John Masefield, and other poets of the day whose names appear in footnotes, as well as their publishers, for kind permission to quote from their writings.

Many gardens, large and small, are in the world; and our whole Earth may fairly be described as one vast Garden, with its more beautiful and its more barren parts. I have tried to bring some glimpses, some visions, of that Garden and of what it really means, before the imagination of my readers.

This is intended to be a companion-volume to another

of mine, published a few months ago; nominally a reprint from a small volume of the same name, but entirely rewritten. I wonder whether, possibly, some who have read *This Wonderful Universe*, may now turn to *The Garden of Earth* with the feeling described by Mr. Alfred Noyes in one of his poems :—

“ We should come
Seeking a little refuge from the light
Of the blinding terrible star-sown Infinite,
Seeking some sheltering roof, some four-walled Home,
From that too high, too wide
Communion with the Universe and God,
How glad to creep back to some lane we trod,
Hemmed in with a hawthorn hedge on either side.”

Yet the marvels and the mysteries to be found in that hawthorn hedge are not *less* than the marvels and the mysteries of the Star-sown Universe, as seen and known in ever so limited a measure by us on Earth.

AGNES GIBERNE.