

THE CHILD'S BOTANY

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The Child's Botany by Anonymous

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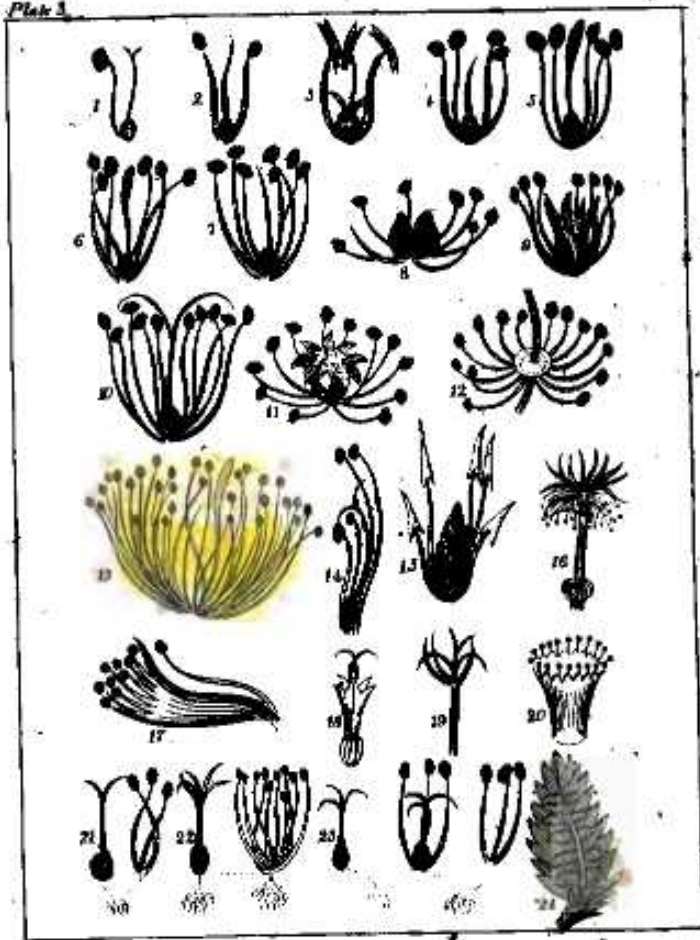
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ANONYMOUS

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CHILD'S BOTANY**



THE
CHILD'S BOTANY.

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CARTER AND HENDER.

1832.

PREFACE.

THE writer of the following pages was induced to make an attempt at simplifying the first principles of Botany, for the use of children, from the belief that their minds are capable of understanding, and being interested in, many of those subjects which have generally been treated of in a manner solely adapted to minds of maturer age.

Some of the first books which are put into the hands of children, are those that relate to the Natural History of Animals. But there are facts relating to the Natural History of Vegetables, that may certainly be rendered as useful and interesting to them.

That children should of themselves enter, with

great interest, into the subject of this book, can hardly be expected; but if parents would direct their attention, by asking questions, and by requiring them to apply what they read to what they see, they will engage with ardour in the study; and the effect will be of incalculable benefit to their expanding minds.

CHILD'S BOTANY.

CHAPTER I.

EVERY little child knows that there are a great many plants on the earth. By plants I mean all kinds of trees, bushes, briars, vines, grasses, grains, weeds, and mosses; or everything that produces flowers and fruit, as all plants do. But very few children, and not many grown people, think much about the beautiful flowers that cover every meadow in the summer, or know why they were made.

Little children! I intend to tell you a great

What are plants?

deal about them, in this book which I am writing, on purpose to instruct and amuse you. Perhaps you will think it is not so pleasant to read about trees and flowers, as to read stories or to go to play. But if you wish to live useful lives, and be respected and happy, you must read and study for instruction, as well as amusement.

Well, how many different kinds of plants do you think there are in the world? More than thirty thousand have been discovered! These vary in size, from the smallest mosses to the largest trees. For the mosses that grow on the rocks and fences have flowers, as well as the larger plants; but they are so small, that you cannot see them with your naked eye. It is necessary to look at them through a micro-

Do all plants produce flowers and fruit?

How many different kinds of plants have been found?

How do these vary in size?

Can you see the flowers of all with your naked eye?

scope, or a large magnifying glass, and then you can see them very distinctly. Thirty thousand is a great many, but there are probably many more, that have never been found, or that are too small to be observed.

Can you tell how many flowers there are of any one of these thirty thousand kinds? Take a dandelion, for instance. Can you tell how many dandelions you ever saw? You have seen large fields yellow with them in the spring. They are very pretty flowers, too; much prettier than many you will find in a lady's flower-garden. But the lady does not want them in her garden, because they are so common; everybody can find dandelions enough: they grow in nearly all parts of the world. How many millions of them there must be! nobody can count

Are there any more plants in the world which have not been discovered?
Does each one of these kinds contain few, or many flowers?