MANUAL OF EXPERIMENTAL BOTANY

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Manual of experimental botany by Frank Owen Payne

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BY

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PAYNE'S SOTANY.

W. P. 1

PREFACE

THERE is something in an experiment which appeals to the mind of the young. The innate desire to find out what is in a toy, how it works, and why various things happen, is largely responsible for this.

Chemistry and physics owe their great popularity to the fact that they have been taught by experiment. Zoölogy and botany have always been less popular because they have often been taught without experimentation.

In the days when morphology was the summum bonum of botanical study, there could be small room for experiment. But in these later years, when the science has been taught more along physiological lines, the use of experiment has come into more general vogue.

It is the purpose of this little book to teach botany by experiment. Plants yield themselves very readily to experiment. Being alive, they respond to all external influences most admirably, and there is no reason why such work with plants should not prove as interesting and as useful as similar exercises with levers, lenses, vibrating pendulums, and cords.

It is hoped that something may be found in this book which will remedy the inadequacy which exists in the laboratory instruction of many schools.

The work is not entirely physiological in character, but it has been thought wise to present the morphological part also in the form of experiments. In a number of places, several experiments have been introduced to demonstrate the same truth. It is not intended, however, that all such exercises be undertaken by the same class in any one term. They are offered so that the courses from term to term can be varied, using alternative experiments.

This gives variety to the work and will make the use of old laboratory notebooks less likely.

It is also expedient often to assign for home experiment such exercises as are omitted in school. Field work should be undertaken wherever possible; but as real field work is out of the question in large cities, much reference work can be done, and a certain amount of it ought to be required.

Reference work will include the looking up of topics in libraries, and visits to museums and parks.

Written reports on assigned topics should be expected. A certain number of common plants should be known by name. This can be accomplished by requiring pupils to bring in specimens. These collections may be arranged for exhibition where all may see them and learn to recognize them.

Walks about streets and parks to identify trees and shrubs should be made from time to time, and their leaves should be collected as a means of recognizing them. The same method is recommended for ferns and garden flowers.

If the boy or girl who studies this book comes to realize that plants are alive as we are alive,—that they eat, digest, grow, and reproduce their kind as truly as we perform these functions; that they respond to outside influences as we do; that they are in a way our brothers; that they are necessary to us and we to them,—my object will be fulfilled.

To Dr. Walter Hollis Eddy, of the High School of Commerce, New York, for his many helpful suggestions of material and method of presentation; to Mr. Frederick L. Holtz of the Training School for Teachers, Brooklyn, who has read the manuscript and has given it most careful criticism; and to my colleagues in the High School of Commerce, Messrs. Matthewson, Barbour, A. H. Lewis, Sprague, and Hahn, who have rendered substantial assistance in the preparation of this book,—I desire to express my sincerest thanks.

The following texts have been freely consulted: Bailey, Principles of Agriculture, Plant Breeding, and Botany; The Cornell University Bulletins; Osterhaut, Experiments with Plants; Percival, Agricultural Botany; United States Department of Agriculture Bulletins, and the botanical textbooks of Andrews, Atkinson, Bergen, Coulter, Barnes, and Cowles, Dana, Goff and Mayne, Goodale, Gray, Hunter, Leavitt, and Sharpe.

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