

**A FIRST BOOK OF BOTANY
FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS
AND PRIVATE FAMILIES**

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A First Book of Botany for the Use of Schools and Private Families by William Rossiter

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WILLIAM ROSSITER

**A FIRST BOOK OF BOTANY
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FIRST BOOK OF BOTANY.

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE FAMILIES.

BY

WILLIAM ROSSITER,

FELLOW OF THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.



LONDON:

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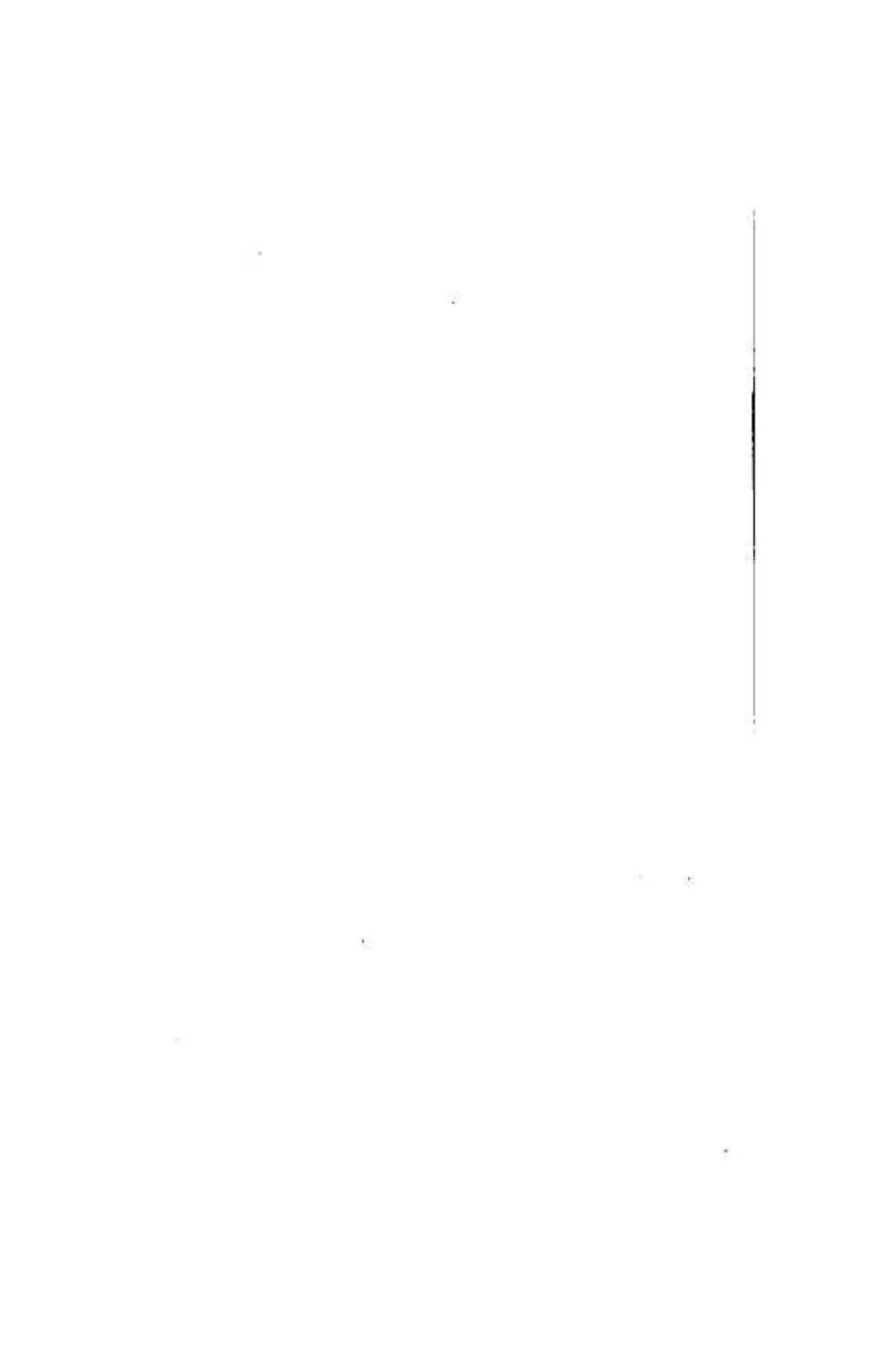
PREFACE.

THIS little book is meant for school children, and to be a first book for them. What is easy to understand I have tried to put simply before them; what is difficult to understand I have merely stated as simple facts, or left unmentioned.

The two leading ideas of the book are, (1), to give children a broad idea of the general structure of plants, without embarrassing them with minute details; and (2), to give them a broad idea of the principles of classification, without puzzling them with minute differences.

W. R.

WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE,
London, January, 1868.



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A

FIRST BOOK OF BOTANY.

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF PLANTS.

INTRODUCTION.

DIFFERENT PARTS OF A PLANT.

§ 1. WHEN a seed is put into the ground and begins to grow, it does so in two directions, up and down. The part sent up from the seed is called the **stem**; the part growing down into the earth is called the **root**.

The stem forms the trunk, or body of the plant bearing the branches, leaves, flowers, fruits, &c., while the root serves to keep the plant fixed in the ground, and to draw up from the ground the food which it requires.

The branches grow out from the stem on all sides; and from these grow first the leaves, then the flowers, which afterwards become the fruit. The fruit contains seed, which in turn produces other plants.

These parts—root, stem, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit—make up the entire plant. The root fixes and feeds it, the stem supports the branches, the branches bear the leaves; the leaves are the breathing part of the plant, and the flowers and fruit bear the seed of new plants.

The root is sometimes thick and round, as in the tur-