

**BOSTON SCHOOL SERIES.
THE INFORMATION
READERS. NUMBER I.
FOODS AND BEVERAGES.**

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E. A. BEAL

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Boston School Series

THE
INFORMATION READERS

NUMBER 1.

FOODS AND BEVERAGES

BY
F. A. BEAL, M.D.

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20

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PREFACE.

TO-DAY'S school curriculum includes only one subject, Reading, in which the text-books have not kept pace with educational progress. There is no substantial difference between the old American Readers, published sixty years ago, and any series now in use. Yet this fact should not cause surprise. One reading-book must resemble another, if both are merely compilations of extracts chosen for elocutionary purposes. Our present readers are, it is true, more sumptuous specimens of book-making, but children are not sent to school to admire book-covers or to look at pictures.

No selections from Shakspeare and Milton have been culled for the Information Series. The books contain no "pieces to speak." Excerpts on Constitutional Government, the Destiny of Man and other trivial subjects, must be looked for elsewhere. Nor is the text of the Infor-

mation Readers a tissue of pretty stories. Means to waste the precious hours of school life can readily be invented, if such waste be desired. No effort has been spared to render information attractive, indeed; but the fundamental aim of the series has not been ignored in a single lesson.

In these books elocution is subordinated to instruction, — such instruction as will aid the young learner to understand the life of the world around him. How many school graduates of this year can describe the sources from which food is obtained or can tell how it is marketed? How many appreciate the importance of the railroad as a factor in determining the cost of living in town or country? How many have any knowledge of the processes employed in making cloth? How many know how gas is manufactured? or how steel is produced? or how newspapers are printed?

To the educational public the editors of this series have endeavored to present reading-books the perusal of which will stimulate the perceptive faculties of the pupil, store his mind with practical information, and interest him in various arts and occupations by which hundreds

of millions of persons earn their daily bread. Above all, it is hoped that the books will create and foster in the mind of every young reader a just appreciation of the nobility of manual labor.

In the preparation of these volumes several distinguished educators have shown the most friendly interest. The invaluable aid of their counsel and encouragement is gratefully acknowledged.

E. A. B.

H. W. C.

W. G. P.

R. L.



CONTENTS.

LESSON	PAGE
I. THE FIRST FARMING-TOOL	11
II. THE OLDEST OCCUPATION	14
III. UNCLE SAM'S SEED BARN	18
IV. AN AMERICAN INVENTION	22
V. AN OX-TASK IN BIBLE TIMES	25
VI. GRASSES	28
VII. THE MILLER'S METHODS	30
VIII. TOM'S LETTER	33
IX. GOLDEN EARS	36
X. THE STAFF OF LIFE	39
XI. MORE ABOUT BREAD	42
XII. A MACHINE BAKER	45
XIII. CRACKERS	48
XIV. CAKES	50
XV. THREE KINGDOMS OF FOOD	53
XVI. POD SEEDS	56
XVII. AN EATABLE POISON ROOT	59
XVIII. SOME VEGETABLES	61
XIX. HOW WE EAT POTASH	64
XX. DAIRY PRODUCTS	66
XXI. THE COMPLETE FOOD	69
XXII. BUTTER AND OLEOMARGARINE	74
XXIII. FAT FROM TREES	79
XXIV. CHEESE	83
XXV. WHAT OTHERS EAT	87
XXVI. THE ANIMAL THIRD IN VALUE	91