

**REVISED EDITION. FIRST
BOOK IN CHEMISTRY: FOR
THE USE OF SCHOOLS
AND FAMILIES**

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Revised Edition. First Book in Chemistry: For the Use of Schools and Families by Worthington Hooker

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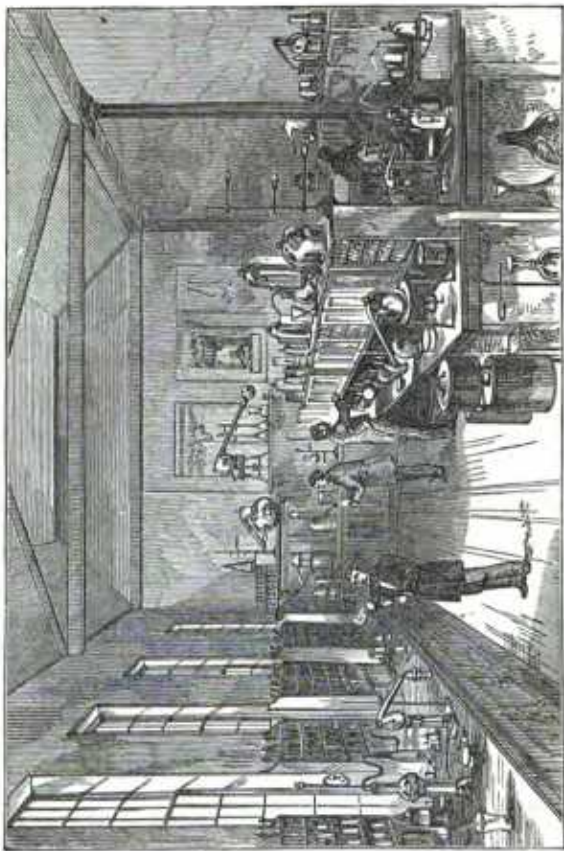
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FIRST BOOK
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CHEMISTRY.

FOR THE USE OF
SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

By WORTHINGTON HOOKER, M.D.,

AUTHOR OF "CHILD'S BOOK OF NATURE," "CHEMISTRY," "NATURAL HISTORY," ETC.

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By Dr. WORTHINGTON HOOKER.

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P R E F A C E.

THE idea of this book was suggested by a lady, who is a stranger to me, in a letter, a portion of which I will quote here. "I can not tell you how much pleasure I have had in teaching the Child's Book of Nature to my little daughter. In giving my own opinion of that work I am also expressing the opinion of several other mothers of my acquaintance, who agree with me in pronouncing it the very best book of the kind which we have ever found. It is so plain and simple in its arrangement, that any child of common capacity can learn it with ease and remember it well. The subjects upon which it treats are of a kind to interest all children, and the pleasant way in which you bring them forward is sure to awaken their powers of observation and comparison, and, better still, to lead them 'through Nature up to Nature's God.' It seems to me that an elementary book on chemistry, upon the same plan, would be interesting to children, especially if they could have some simple and safe experiments which they might try for themselves."

Soon after receiving this letter, I put the matter to a test in the following manner: I selected a few of those school-rooms in the public schools of New Haven in which the scholars were from eleven to thirteen years of age. I visited these rooms from time to time, talking to

the pupils for half an hour on chemistry, without trying any experiments, but illustrating the subject largely from common every-day phenomena. At each visit I questioned them upon what I had told them at the previous visit, and allowed them to ask me questions. In this way I found out what they could understand, and what they wanted to know, about chemistry. I was surprised to see how much of this science was within the reach of their capacity, and, at the same time, could be made very interesting to them. During all this time I jotted down my results, and at length put them into the shape in which they now appear, so that the book was almost literally made in the school-room. I may add that nearly the whole has been subjected to the examination of one of the teachers whose rooms I visited, a lady to whom I am indebted for many valuable suggestions.

This book can be readily comprehended by pupils of average capacity of twelve or even eleven years of age, especially if they have gone through with my Child's Book of Nature, which it is intended to follow. At the same time, it is fitted for older scholars to whom the subject of chemistry is entirely new.

I need hardly say that there must be carefulness in experimenting, and that some of the experiments described in this book should be tried only by teachers, or by pupils under their supervision.

This book is followed by three other books for the next higher grade of pupils. They are under one title—Science for the School and the Family. Part I, Natural Philosophy. Part II, Chemistry. Part III, Mineralogy and Geology.

WORTHINGTON HOOKER.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN preparing a revised edition of this work no alteration has been made in its general plan; a considerable diminution in size has been effected by general condensation, but it is believed that no leading features have been omitted.

In adapting the nomenclature to modern theories and usage a compromise has been attempted, and a change made which some may regard as not sufficiently radical; but it has not seemed desirable to introduce the nice distinctions in terminology which are correlated to philosophical views, inasmuch as an explanation of these views is precluded by the very elementary character of the work.

The presentation of scientific truths to the youthful mind in a simple and attractive manner was the peculiar faculty of the author, and the editor has endeavored to preserve this characteristic, and to avoid burying the subject beneath the exactions of a scientific nomenclature.

H. CARRINGTON BOLTON, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF MINES, COLUMBIA COLLEGE,
New York, September, 1876.

