

A NEW TEXTBOOK OF BOTANY.¹—The need of a book such as that of Messrs. Coulter, Barnes and Cowles has long been evident and the uniformly high standard maintained throughout the volume will ensure a cordial welcome and extensive use. It is thoroughly modern in treatment, accurate in statement and attractive in appearance. The authors' conception of their task is the selection of "the fundamental facts and principles of the science." Their "endeavor has been to help the student build up a coherent and substantial body of knowledge, and to develop an attitude of mind which will enable him to grapple with any botanical situation, whether it be teaching or investigation." From this standpoint the book will appeal strongly to teachers, whose chief complaint is that textbooks contain too much material and lay too little emphasis on the selection of what is really important.

The treatment of the selected topics is in general clear and well proportioned. Certain matters are presented with a degree of finality which may occasion surprise, e. g. the statement that "transpiration far from being a function of plants is an unavoidable danger" (p. 326). One may suppose that the skilful teacher will know how to utilize such a statement to provoke thought and discussion.

A noteworthy feature is the large number of very excellent illustrations. A great part of these is new or taken from recent publications. In this respect the work may well serve as a model.—W. J. V. O.

¹ Coulter, J. R., Barnes, C. R., and Cowles, H. C., A Textbook of Botany for Colleges and Universities. Vol. I. Morphology and Physiology. American Book Co., 1910. viii + 488 pages.

*Vol. 12, no. 144, including pages 221 to 245 and title-page of volume, was issued
2 January, 1911.*



Osterhout, W. J. V. 1911. "A New Textbook of Botany." *Rhodora* 13, 16–16.

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