

P R E F A C E.

THIS Text-book of Botany is intended to introduce the student to the present state of our knowledge of botanical science. Its purpose is not only to describe the phenomena of plant-life which are already accurately known, but also to indicate those theories and problems in which botanical research is at present especially engaged; the arrangement of the material and the mode of treatment of the separate subjects are adapted to this purpose. Detailed discussions of questions of minor importance have been avoided, as these would only mar clearness of outline in the design; critical remarks have been introduced occasionally where they seemed necessary, in order to determine facts, or to justify the views taken on matters of fundamental importance.

The historical development of botanical views and theories does not seem to come within the scope of a Text-book of Botany, and would only interfere with the unity of design of the work. It would therefore be superfluous to quote scientific works which have only a historical interest. In the references which will be found in the work the chief object has been to introduce the student to those writings in which he will find a fuller discussion of those parts of the subject which have been only touched on briefly. In some cases the writings of others have been quoted because they represent views different from those of the author, and because it is desirable to place the student in a position to form a judgment for himself. Others again of the references are simply for the purpose of citing the authorities on which reliance is placed for statements that have not come within the range of the author's own observation. The reader of this work will at least learn the names and standing of those workers who have in recent times contributed most essentially to the science of which it treats.

By far the greater number of the illustrations are original, many of them the result of laborious investigation. Where they have been copied the name of the author from whom they are borrowed is in each case given in the description; illustrations from other sources are used only when the objects themselves have not been accessible, or when it seemed impossible to obtain better ones.

The Table of Contents will give sufficient indication of the plan of the work; the Index should be consulted for references to other parts of the book where an explanation of technical terms will be found when their meaning does not appear in any particular passage.