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who have had no contact with botany this is better than an exclusive use of the compound microscope, but in so far as it suppresses an examination of the lower groups it is incomplete from its own standpoint. The endless lists of names, serviceable only in taxonomy, are not of great educative value: but for those bent upon "analyzing" flowering plants they are a necessary antecedent. We have regarded this phase of botany, so far as elementary students are concerned, as holding the same relation to the science of botany as does the collecting of postage stamps to the science of geography. It is very interesting, and hence very attractive, but it is hardly botany as we understand it today. However, for those who want to do this sort of thing Professor Bailey's book is a most excellent guide, and it suggests some capital work for secondary schools after the pupils have reached the spermatophytes.—J. M. C.

Practical botany.

THE extensive use made of Professor Strasburger's *Das botanische Practicum*, both in the original and in translations, and in the complete and briefer forms, is evidenced by the numerous editions. It is unusual for a laboratory guide to keep so nearly abreast of current knowledge. A third edition of *Das kleine botanische Practicum* is before us.⁴

As the title indicates, the book is intended primarily for those who are unable to study in the schools under a teacher. It is presumed that the pupil is acquainted with the more recent text-books of botany, and that he has sufficient familiarity with plants to enable him to collect material.

As in the preceding editions, there are thirty-two lessons, but the number of studies under each lesson has been considerably reduced upon the theory that it is better to have a thorough knowledge of a few forms than a superficial knowledge of many. The types considered are about the same as in the last edition, but the exercises have been revised to keep pace with the increasing information on the various subjects. The lesson on bacteria has received special attention. The modern methods of investigation are given in detail, and the form, structure and development of the bacteria are more fully treated than in the previous editions.

On the whole there is an improvement in the technique, the literature also has been brought up to date, and the very complete index adds materially to the value of the book.

The figures are all from Strasburger's own drawings, and nearly all the work, even when it deals with well-known subject-matter, rests upon the author's own investigations.—C. J. C.

⁴STRASBURGER DR. EDUARD: *Das kleine botanische Practicum für Anfänger*, etc. Dritte umgearbeitete Auflage. 8 vo. pp. 246. 121 cuts. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1897. In paper *M* 6, bound *M* 7.