

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

PRACTICAL BOTANY FOR HIGH SCHOOLS. By Willard N. Clute. Chicago: Mentzer, Bush and Co. 214 pages. 1924

To get hold of a modern botany text book like this, really written for high school students, makes one wish that the clock could be set back to permit the "grown up" botanist to get his first contact with the "amiable science" through something other than the trimmed-down and watered out Strasburger course many of us had to contend with. Perhaps Mr. Clute might have made a good book better by leaving out a few more of the many-jointed technical terms, like "actinomorphic" and "entomophily"; but this is a minor point. Really important are the facts that his presentation is fresh and clear, that the pictures really illustrate, that the publishers have done a good job mechanically, and most important of all, that the volume has been kept down to a wieldy size.

MANUAL OF TREE AND SHRUB INSECTS. By Ephraim Porter Felt. New York: The Macmillan Company. 382 pages. \$3.50 1924.

That this book will be welcomed by many teachers of horticulture and economic entomology goes without saying. But the home-owner and garden-lover also ought to have a copy in his library, against that evil day when a favorite tree or brush sickens or is invaded by a devouring host, and the frantic question arises: "What can I do?" The many clear illustrations furnish an excellent rogues' gallery of insect marauders, and the text tells what can be done against them.

-----

COLLEGES BLAMED FOR STUDENTS' FAILURE

When a student "flunks" from college or university, whose fault is it? Heretofore the failing student has usually been allowed to drop out of his classes for six months or a year to loaf or work, then return, "with his deficiencies remedied". Experiments conducted this spring by Franklin C. Paschal, professor of psychology and dean of men at the University of Arizona, lead Professor Paschal to lay most of the blame on the institutions. He reclaimed 80 per cent. of a group of ailing students without any loss of class time.

Professor Paschal selected 25 students from 80 who had failed in 50 per cent. of their college work. These students were given provisional registration and allowed to register for a maximum of 12½ units. They were required to present themselves three afternoons a week for supervised study. As a result, 20 were saved.

Lack of adequate high school preparation and lack of knowing how to study were found to be the most frequent causes of failure. Laziness, Dean Paschal said, is only a symptom. Other causes were extracurricular activities, financial difficulties, and general inability to carry a university program.

-----

In the past 40 years, the daily consumption of water per person in Chicago has increased from 125 gallons to 280 gallons.

-----