

PREFACE

THE "FUNDAMENTALS" laid down here will in no way replace the introductions to limnology (Thienemann, Brehm, Lenz, and Welch) but complement them in certain respects. The great progress which has been made in recent years in the field of the chemical and physical properties of water and the dependence of the life processes on these makes it appear desirable to take water as an environment as the central theme, and this subject occupies half the text. This method of giving an introduction to limnology seems appropriate to me, because a complete understanding of the biological phenomena in a body of water cannot be attained without a comprehensive knowledge of the environment.

The section of this book on biotic communities will be useful merely as a review and as an illustration of causal relationships. It has been possible to make this section short because the works mentioned above contain much information on this subject.

This book has grown out of the course in Hydrobiology which has been given at the Biological Station at Lunz for some decades. This circumstance will make it clear why the text may seem to be overburdened with examples drawn from conditions in the lakes of Lunz and from work carried on at the Lunz Station.

To my old friend, my collaborator for many years at the Lunz Station, Professor V. Brehm, I owe my heartfelt thanks for many valuable suggestions. Further thanks are due Dr. F. Berger for the careful preparation of the figures, and not the least to my dear wife for the wearisome task of proof-reading.

F. R.

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