FOREWORD

A MAN may be a scientist, of high attainment, but it does not follow that he shall successfully lead the uninitiated into an understanding of the natural world, nor yet give a child an interest in and a love for his natural environment. To do this requires not alone scientific attainment but also a comprehension of the absence of knowledge and lack of training in observing natural phenomena of the ordinary adult, and an understanding of the mind and interest of the child.

The author of this volume is a man of science and has shown to a marked degree his ability to interest his pupils in science and to give to them careful methods of investigation and show to them many ways of interesting the children in the out-of-doors when they should become teachers. His long experience as a successful head of a Girls' Camp and his active interest in the Boy Scouts have given him the opportunity to know our boys and girls of to-day as they are, and this knowledge has been of great use to him in preparing teachers of nature-study. His field classes have been conducted with remarkable success, with the invariable result that his pupils become interested as well as learned in the ways of nature.

The author has been exceptionally broad in his training. He began with work for the Fish Commission and later became deeply interested in Botany and finally centered his interest in Forestry. His Arbor Day manuals for Rhode Island were remarkable for their excellence, and brought him wide recognition. It is, perhaps, because of the diversity of his scientific training that the author became interested in the nature lore movement. For years he has been the moving spirit in preparing Nature Counsellors for the Summer camps and he has undoubtedly done more to bring children of the camps into true companionship with their natural surroundings, than has anyone else.

It is fortunate that the author in the midst of his multiplicity of duties has found time to write the lessons contained in this volume and thus increase the radius of his inspiration and beneficent influence.

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