

BOTANY.

Campbell's Evolution of Plants.¹ — In publishing his lectures on the evolution of plants, delivered at Stanford University, Dr. Campbell has done a good service not only to students of botany but also to a wide circle of readers interested in general biological problems. The book will prove enjoyable reading to persons with no more knowledge of the technicalities of botany than many high schools now afford. Teachers have long desired such a book for use with advanced pupils. At the same time it will be welcome to botanists as a broad, clear statement of the main facts of plant development and their interpretation from the most modern point of view.

After an introductory chapter, followed by one on "The Conditions of Plant Life," the author discusses in nine chapters the morphology, ontogeny, and phylogeny of the principal types of the vegetable kingdom, and finally, in three chapters, gives a rapid survey of "Geological and Geographical Distribution," the interrelations of "Animals and Plants," and the "Influence of Environment." Each chapter and the book as a whole concludes with a helpful "Summary."

The truly scientific spirit of these lectures cannot fail to exert a wholesome influence upon the students who read them. We find throughout the clearest distinction made between what is actually known and what may be more or less probable, and in weighing probabilities rival views are treated with perfect fairness. Due caution and entire frankness are most happily combined with ample freedom of the "scientific imagination."

One always feels entire confidence that Dr. Campbell's statements are not only trustworthy but up to date. In this case the impression is of a wide range of facts and ideas presented as nearly as possible in their true perspective.

FREDERICK LEROY SARGENT.

A Recent Work on Bryophytes.² — The first part of the second volume of Goebel's important work on the organography of plants is now before us and well maintains the high standard set by the first volume, which has already been reviewed in the *Naturalist*. The

¹ Campbell, D. H. *Lectures on the Evolution of Plants*. 12mo, viii + 319 pp., 60 figs. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1899.

² Goebel, K. *Organographie der Pflanzen*, Zweiter Theil, Heft 1. Jena, 1898.