

conversational in tone, with frequent recurrences of entertaining stories told in a light and easy fashion, and the illustrations, both in color and monotone, are of a piece with the text. "*Our Gardens*" in a special sense is a book of the season, but it is also likely to be a book of many seasons; for while it is in no sense great or exhaustive, it has that atmospheric quality which brings into the library the fragrance and freshness of gardens and summer. (The Macmillan Company, New York.)

Field, Forest, and Wayside Flowers, with Chapters on Grasses, Sedges, and Ferns, is described in its sub-title as a series of "Untechnical Studies for Unlearned Lovers of Nature," so arranged as to follow the development of plant life during an average season in this section of the United States. The author has had in mind people who have not had time to familiarize themselves with botany, and who are ignorant of botanical terms, but who are lovers of plant life and would like to become intelligent observers. The book belongs, therefore, with that very useful and very popular class of publications of which "*How to Know the Wild Flowers*" is one of the most conspicuous and successful examples. It supplements the earlier publications without superseding them, or, indeed, covering to any considerable extent the field already occupied. The volume is handsomely printed, and, what is very important in a book of this kind, is intelligently and thoroughly illustrated. (The Baker & Taylor Company, New York.)

The Rev. John Coleman Adams has published, through Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons (New York), a superb volume, in paper, print, illustrations, and binding, entitled *Nature Studies in Berkshire*. We almost regret that the form of the book is so large; otherwise it would be a pleasant pocket companion for intending travelers to that delightful region. For the thousands, however, who have visited and lived in Berkshire, this book is indeed a charming souvenir.

There are a great many books about birds, but there was still room for Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller's *The First Book of Birds*, intended primarily to interest young people in the ways and habits of birds and to stimulate them to further observation, but quite as well adapted for

NATURE

Some of the most delightful writings in almost every language have had the garden for their subject. In poetry and prose alike its pleasures and resources have been set forth with a grace and beauty which the theme inspires. The most readable of recent books in this field is Dean Hole's volume on *Our Gardens*, the keynote of which is to be found in the delightful illustrated frontispiece representing the Dean's garden at Rochester. The genial and story-loving Dean is in his element in describing the garden, indicating the different forms which it takes, enumerating the flowers which bloom in it, and collecting about it a great mass of delightful anecdote and characteristic comment. There is a pleasantly sketched historical background which takes the reader back to Roman days and reminds him that Cicero, Sallust, and Pliny were familiar with splendid specimens of the art of gardening, although not in the form in which it is now practiced. The very titles of the chapters suggest the quality of this fascinating volume. "The Rose Garden," "The Rock Garden," "The Water Garden," and "The Town Garden" indicate the range of Dean Hole's knowledge and interest. There are also many evidences that he knows the subject thoroughly from the scholar's point of view, and that he writes about it, not only with literary skill, but from intimate practical and botanic information. The book has the qualities which such a book ought to possess. It is entirely informal, gossipy and

older people whose education in this delightful field has been neglected. This elementary volume, written by a woman who knows her subject and loves it, with its colored and line illustrations, will be found an exceedingly useful and convenient volume to have at hand for the study of the birds which ought to be familiar, but of which most people who hear their notes and see them flitting through the trees know almost nothing. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)