



The Natural History of Plants, Vol. 4: Their Forms, Growth, Reproduction, and Distribution (Classic Reprint)

By F W Oliver

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Natural History of Plants, Vol. 4: Their Forms, Growth, Reproduction, and Distribution Under these circumstances it is a matter of indifference whether 10 percent or only traces of lime or silica can be demonstrated in the soil, and the hypothesis that plant-species which grow on limestone fail to grow on slate because they are not able to supply their need of calcium, or that the plants growing on slate cannot flourish on limestone mountains because they cannot obtain the necessary amount of silica, must be abandoned, as well as the assumption that these substances when absorbed as food serve as a stimulus to change of form. I strongly supported this latter hypothesis at the time, and thought I should be able to strengthen and confirm it by careful cultural experiments. Seeds of several species which demand lime were sown in soil containing hardly perceptible quantities of lime, and the seedlings were watered with water devoid of calcium; in another place seeds of species demanding a silica-containing substratum were placed in soil which contained much...



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