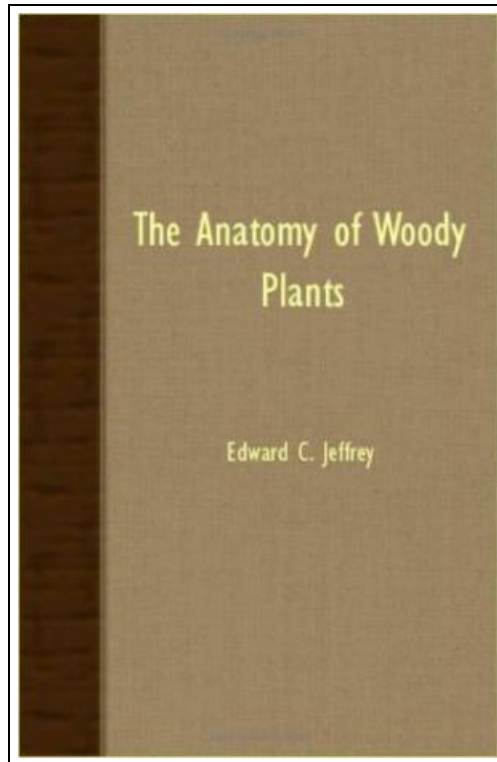


The Anatomy Of Woody Plants



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PREFACE It is now forty years since De Barys classic Comparative Anatomy of the Vegetative Organs of the Phanerogams and Ferns made its appearance. In the interval much has been added to our knowledge, particularly in the paleobotanical and experimental fields. The doctrine of descent, too, has now reached a degree of prominence and importance which it did not possess in De Barys time. As a consequence, it is desirable that the general subject of the anatomy of the woody or so-called vascular plants should be reviewed, with special reference to its historical and experimental aspects. This is perhaps all the more desirable as an effective counterpoise to the extreme mechanistic tendencies of the time. It will accordingly serve a useful purpose to indicate how large a part of the organization of existing plants is an inheritance from their ancestors of earlier geological times. In De Barys textbook both paleobotany and development are deliberately eschewed. The first of these is now essential for any adequate comprehension of comparative anatomy in its all-important evolutionary aspects. It is abundantly clear that the most fruitful results from the standpoint of the doctrine of descent are to be derived from the comparative study of extinct and existing plants belonging to the same orders, families, or genera. It is, moreover, obvious that the living forms cannot be interpreted without a knowledge of their past, and that to an even greater degree the organization of fossil plants is a closed book to those who are unfamiliar with the anatomy of allied and still living types. The wide range of facts which must of necessity be covered calls for a somewhat brief and even elementary treatment....



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