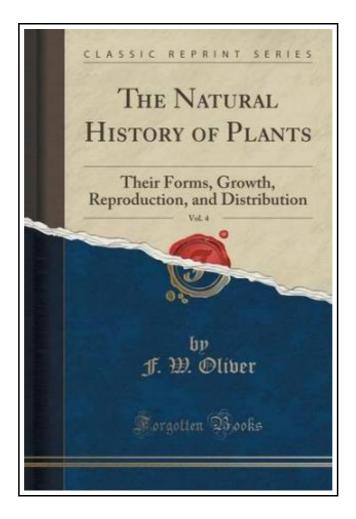
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Excerpt from The Natural History of Plants, Vol. 4: Their Forms, Growth, Reproduction, and Distribution Under these circumstances it is a matter of indifference whether 10 percent or only traces of lime or silica can he 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 limestone, and the seedlings were watered with limewater. At first it seemed as if an alteration of form had actually taken place in some individuals. But this was a mistake, or rather, the alteration only consisted in the greater or less luxuriance of the foliage, lengthening or shortening of the stem, abundant or scanty development of flowers and the like. But no actual change of form which would be retained by their descendants could be obtained. The species of plants accustomed to lime, grown on a soil devoid of lime, presented a miserable appearance, with scanty flowers which ripened only...

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