

EYES AND NO EYES BOOK 3.

PLANT LIFE IN FIELD AND GARDEN



ARABELLA BUCKLEY

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EYES AND NO EYES
VOL. 3

PLANT LIFE IN FIELD AND GARDEN

BY

ARABELLA B. BUCKLEY
(MRS. FISHER)



PUBLISHER'S NOTE

WE at Living Book Press are extremely proud to bring you this release of *Eyes and No Eyes*, originally published by Cassell.

Some of the old images were not of a high enough quality to reprint so we have included some of the black and white images from the original as well as many high quality photographs to accompany the text throughout.

Because this book represents a broad overview of the nature we will find around us the images may sometimes be of similar creatures and plants that are native to other regions than the United Kingdom where the story was first set. This is to help children appreciate that many animal and plant families share similar traits and can be found in many parts of the world, some may even be in their own backyard, as well as provide an opportunity for those who can't access the great outdoors to see nature up close.

We hope these new editions bring a lot of joy to your homes, and that they will help children everywhere take a deeper look at the natural world surrounding them.

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These lessons are intended to be read in conjunction with oral teaching, and, if possible, with specimens. It is not necessary to read the book straight through. Different lessons are suited for different seasons, and in some cases one lesson may serve for a month's work; the children being encouraged to observe and collect.



A BEE COLLECTING POLLEN

A WOODPECKER ON AN ELM





SHEPHERD'S PURSE

LESSON I.

THE SHEPHERD'S PURSE.

IT is seven o'clock on a lovely summer morning. Jump up and look out of the window. It is a shame to be in bed when the sun is shining so brightly, and the birds are singing, and the bees are flying from flower to flower.

Why are the bees at work so early? They want to gather the yellow pollen-dust from the flowers, and the dew helps them to wet it, so that they can roll it up in little balls. Then they pack these balls into a groove in their hind legs, and fly away to the hive. There they mix it with honey, and make it into bee-bread to feed the young bees.

See how busy that woodpecker is, under the elm tree.

He is catching insects to carry home to his little ones, which have been hatched more than a week. Further away in the field is a thrush struggling with a big worm: I expect that he too is getting a breakfast for his family.

How busy they all are, and you in bed! If I were you I would get up and pull up some weeds in the garden. Then you will be of some use, and you can learn many interesting things, while you are at work.

Here is a weed, growing among the cabbages. Do you know its name? It is called "The Shepherd's Purse" (*see* picture opposite) because of its curious seed-pods. These grow on stalks up the stem of the plant, below the little white flowers. If you open one of them very carefully, you will find that there is a small bag on each side, which can be pulled away from the middle, when the pod is ripe, leaving the seeds hanging on a small division.

So the pod is a kind of purse, with two pockets, and we can pretend that the seeds are the shepherd's money.

Take hold of this plant, and I will tell you about its different parts. First look at the *root*. That always grows downwards into the ground. It has small rootlets growing out of it. The root and the rootlets all have tender tips, and they drink in the food of the plant out of the ground.

You know that your father puts manure into the earth before he sows his seeds, or plants his fruit trees.



SHEPHERD'S PURSE
SEED-POD



SHEPHERD'S PURSE.

Then the rain sinks into the earth and takes the juice out of the manure. This makes a rich drink for the roots to suck in, and so the plants grow strong.

Next look at the stem. You can tell where it begins, for a tuft of leaves grows close to the ground. A root never has any leaves on it, so where the leaves grow must be the stem. The place where the stem joins the root is often called the stock.

Look carefully at this tuft of leaves. You will see that they do not grow exactly one above the other. The leaves in the upper row always grow just between the leaves of the lower row. And as the stem grows upwards, and the leaves are farther apart, they still grow so that they are not exactly one above the other.

Why do you think they grow like this? Because they want to get as much sun as they can. If they grew exactly one above the other, the upper leaf would keep the sun away from the lower one. But now they get as much as there is to be had.

You see then that a plant has a root which grows downwards to take in water out of the ground, and stems to grow upwards and carry the leaves up into the sunlight. What the leaves do we will learn in the next lesson.