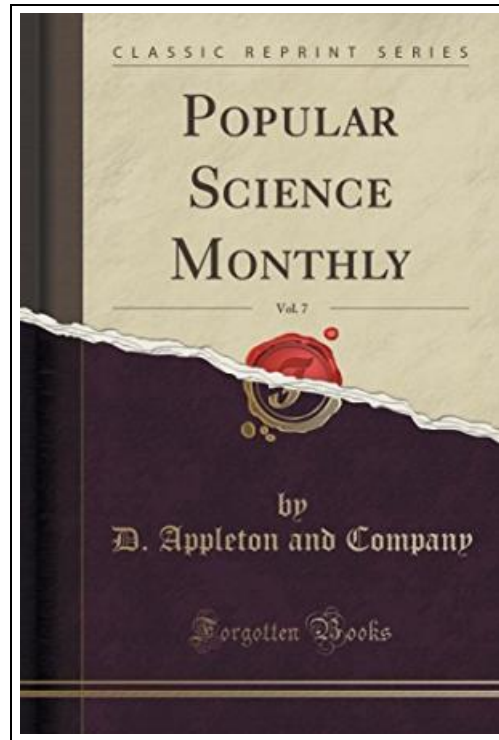


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Popular Science Monthly, Vol. 7 Could Nature, just here, Janus-like, look two ways at once? Might it not be that these mysterious things were the habitants of a certain border-land of life? Another empiricism - a generalization as splendid as that of the fisherman. So in complacent wisdom they called them zoophytes, namely - Animal-Planto. - Time, and a love of truth, will set a good deal right that seems inveterate wrong. Even this brilliant compromise must yield to the verdict that accrues from the patient study of facts generously collected and carefully collated. So this Janus myth, the zoophyte, which had become a cant word in science, turns out to be of no value as representing a fact in Nature. Though flower-forras they were, yet they were really animate things, and capable of acts indicative of will. Our object now is to say something of one of these flower-like types of marine life, namely, the Sea-Ancmonc. It is significant, as showing the suggestivncss of these creatures, that, however diverse the nomenclature of science may be in regard to them, it is often almost poetical, and the words used are always expressive, and even possess pictorial significance. De Blainville named them Zoantharia, from which comes Animal Flower. Dr. Johnson s term took a wider latitude, and, although quite formidable-looking, and not in the best taste, was very significant. He gave the name, Zoophyte helian-thoidea, which is to say, the Sunflower-like animal-plant. In these terms the animal nature and the flower-like form arc intended. The creature is really a polyp, a soft, almost pulpy, sac-like structure, with a fringe of tentacles, like a halo of rays,...



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