Book Reviews 22-24

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The Butler University Botanical Studies journal was published by the Botany Department of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, from 1929 to 1964. The scientific journal featured original papers primarily on plant ecology, taxonomy, and microbiology.

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BOOK REVIEWS

HORTICULTURE

In "Hortus" Bailey has collected an unprecedented amount of horticultural information in one volume. Soil, climate and moisture requirements; cultural and propagation methods; botanical origin and relationship; varietal selection and regional adaptation; insect and disease resistance and control; marketing and transfer methods; and other valuable information is given for every group of plants known to be in cultivation in the United States and Canada. The volume is in no sense an abridgement of Dr. Bailey's earlier Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, but rather it is an entirely new undertaking from fresh and original sources and may be considered as an up-to-date supplement to the larger earlier work. Technical botanists will find a very instructive discussion on nomenclature in the preface.—R. C. F.

CACTI

In "The Cactus Book," Arthur D. Houghton has prepared for the amateur and layman a discussion of the propagation, culture, care and requirements of the cacti. Their evolution by hybridization, their mutation by x-rays, their use in rock gardens and landscaping, and the acquisition of collections are discussed. A conspectus of species at the close of the volume comprises the most valuable part of the work for the scientist.—R. C. F.

MODERN SCIENCE

From the making of worlds to the intricate workings of the human mind and society, J. Arthur Thomson, in "Modern Science," leads his fascinated readers through a wealth of scientific lore which holds the interest and grips the imagination of both scientist and layman alike. Although the material is frankly simplified, there is no touch of pseudo-science and no effort is made to "popularize" science. There is a decided strain of philosophic humor throughout the book, an unusual thing in


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species at the close
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a scientific publication, but the book gains much in interest and loses
none of its scientific standing because of it.—R. C. F.

GENERAL ELEMENTARY BOTANY

We have received recently a copy of the revised edition of the general
botany text by Professor Elmer Campbell, and find many improve-
ments in drawings and arrangement over the first edition, but are dis-
appointed that not more drawings were replaced with better ones. The
chapters on the taxonomy of the seed plants is more than adequate for
many general botany courses, while the information on the lower plants
deals with a considerable number of plants but gives little in detailed
accounts of individual forms. That the author's "fine art of accurate
verbal expression of botanical thought," see page vii, is different from
that of other writers of general botany texts, is indicated in the follow-
ing quotation, page 62: "In certain seasons of the year the most con-
spicuous object in all nature is the thing known as a leaf. In the
springtime, young and tender, it appears and is hailed as the prophe-
try of a new season; in summertime it is sought as a protection from the
burning rays of the noonday sun; in the fall as it ripens it inserts a
thousand hues into a glorious landscape."—C. M. P.

MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

College teachers of botany will welcome the present revision of the
well-known Coulter, Barnes and Cowles' texts. The most important
changes in Volume 1 noted by the reviewer are those in the text and
figures dealing with rusts, this bringing them into agreement with more
recent discoveries. It is to be regretted that the very recent discoveries
concerning pycniospores came too late to be included. It seems unfor-
tunate, too, that the chapter on "Organic Evolution" was not "modern-
ized." A valuable addition is the classified list of references given under
the heading "General Literature."—R. C. F.

Volume 2, on physiology, has been brought up to date by Dr. C. A.
Shull, professor of physiology at the University of Chicago, without
sacrificing the spirit and organization of the subject so admirably pre-

CAMPBELL, ELMER. General Elementary Botany with Practical Application. Revised edition

COULTER, JOHN M., CHARLES E. BARNES and HEVEY C. COWLES. A Textbook of Botany for
sented by Dr. Barnes. The rapid strides made by the science of plant physiology in recent years makes this revision seem like a new book despite the fact that much of the text remains practically as written in the first edition. Abundant practical references to the literature enhance the value to both teacher and student. Space has not permitted the inclusion of more experimental data illustrative of the subjects discussed, yet the small size of the volume belies the actual content, which is adequate. This book compares most favorably with other recent plant physiologies.—S. A. C.

Volume 3, on ecology has been revised by Professor George D. Fuller and will appear soon.

EXPLORING FOR PLANTS

The romantic adventures of a scientist in search of new plants for introduction into our own country are vividly portrayed in David Fairchild’s recent book, “Exploring for Plants.” The accounts of the friendly cooperation of foreign botanists in the collecting of seeds and living plants for experimental purposes give the reader an understanding of the true fellowship existing among people of various nations who are working in a common cause. An intimate glimpse into the personal experiences of Dr. Fairchild with his family and assistants during their travels in West Africa, the East Indies and other countries, makes the book of much interest to the nonscientific reader, while there is sufficient scientific data to hold the attention of the botanist. The author frankly strives to show his readers that there is true romance in the study of plants, and in this he succeeds.—M. M. E.