Book Reviews 202

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USEFUL PLANTS

Plant lovers and professional botanists as well will find pleasure in reading the new edition of Clute's "Useful Plants." In addition to the information which one would expect from a perusal of the table of contents, which shows chapters on origin, sources and varieties of food plants; plants yielding materials used as condiments, perfumes, beverages, stimulants, textiles, dyes, soaps, tannins, gums, resins, rubbers, oils and fats; also on drug plants, wood products and decorative plants; it is refreshing to speculate with the author on the contributions study of plants yields toward knowledge of the history of civilization.—R. C. F.

BIOLOGY

Man as an individual and as a species is the center about which all the facts and principles of biology are made to radiate in the latest textbook on general biology by Wheat and Fitzpatrick." The course departs entirely from the type method of teaching, centering all attention upon fundamental principles as such in their relation to man. The increased interest in science in our secondary schools and the demand for subject matter which has a vital relationship to human problems has also resulted in a recent laboratory guide which follows the same trend." Part I of Hunter's new guide deals with the relation of living organisms to their surroundings; Part II with the part played by green plants; Part III with interrelations of plants and animals; Part IV with man as an organism; and Part V with man's relation to other organisms. The exercises are organized with the viewpoint that mental discipline supersedes factual content in educational value. Pupils are guided, in their handling of data, into the most approved methods of presentation making for accuracy of observation, efficiency of effort and precision of thought.—R. C. F.

