

amateur botanist and many of his illustrations are erroneously named. The American botanist Merrill has issued a corrected list of Blanco's names. Hence, for each incorrectly named illustration in Blanco there are in the "Index" two distinct references, one giving Blanco's name and the other the correct name "fide Merrill", and in each case a cross-reference to the other is supplied.

In some botanical works, the names on the plates are different from those in the text referring to the same plant. This may be due to the fact that the plates were labelled and printed some time before the text was written, when different ideas of nomenclature had prevailed in the author's mind. In these cases, again, there are two distinct headings in the "Index", with the necessary cross-reference in each.

In John Hill's "Family Herbal", dated 1812, the illustrations are mostly very crude, and often names quite foreign to our modern ideas have been given to the plants. In these cases the editor has interpreted the plants figured in terms of modern nomenclature. For example, *Malva moschata* is called in the book "Vervain Mallow. Alcea". Every reference in the "Index" giving the correct name is always followed by the phrase "fide Ed."

An interesting use to which the "Index" might be put would be the tracing of the evolution of the art of depicting any well-known or common plant. But references to pre-Linnæan pictures should, in most cases, be sought for elsewhere than in the "Index".

W. C. W.

Our Bookshelf.

Sexual Reform Congress, London, 8-14: IX: 1929.
 W.L.S.R. World League for Sexual Reform: Weltliga für Sexualreform: Ligue Mondiale pour la Réforme sexuelle: Tutmonda Ligo por Seksaj Reformoj. Proceedings of the Third Congress: Bericht des dritten Kongresses: Compte rendu du troisième Congrès: Dokumentaro de la tria Kongreso. Edited by Norman Haire. Pp. xl + 670 + 8 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 25s. net.

THE Report of the Sexual Reform Congress held in London in September 1929 contains material of interest to men of science as well as to those concerned with social and moral problems. The reader will possibly turn first to Dr. Norman Haire's own paper on "Sterilisation, Abortion, and Birth Control", and will also read with interest Dr. Ernst Grafenberg's exposition of his silver ring method of preventing conception. Dr. Franz E. Hirsch's paper on the use of blood tests as indications of

paternity, is also of interest; and the method seems to him to be capable of yielding fairly definite results. Dr. M. D. Eder, on the "Sterilisation of the Unfit", is rather doubtful as to the effectiveness of such methods in the present stage of our knowledge. We doubt, however, if eugenists will allow themselves to be thus discouraged. Dr. Bernard Hollander, in his paper, "Insanity and Divorce", urges the amendment of the law so as to allow divorce for incurable insanity.

Capt. G. Pitt-Rivers, in his paper, "Sex-phobia and Marriage", claims to have established the interesting and (if true) highly important fact that dense and increasing populations tend inevitably to yield a surplus of women. This lends additional interest to Miss R. B. Kerr's remarks on the "Sexual Rights of Spinsters". The writer claims that the increasing body of women who can afford to bring up one, two, or three children themselves, without the aid of any man, "should at once be sexually free". Another interesting paper, especially to medical men, will be that of Dr. Abraham Stone on "Pre-Marital Consultation", though much of it is a counsel of perfection, at the present time.

The value of the papers in this collection naturally varies. Feeling themselves under a cloud of opposition, the writers occasionally adopt a propagandist attitude, and here and there we find traces of rhetorical treatment—not so glaring, however, as we should find in the writings of those who take the conservative side in sex affairs. On the whole, however, the scientific attitude may be said to prevail.

J. C. HARDWICK.

Monographs of the Geological Department of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University. 4: Reports on Geological Collections from the Coastlands of Kenya Colony made by Miss M. McKinnon Wood. With Introduction by Dr. J. W. Gregory and Report on the Ammonites by Dr. L. F. Spath; Report on the other Mesozoic Mollusca and Brachiopods by Dr. J. Weir; Report on the Kainozoic Mollusca by L. R. Cox; Report on the Cheilostomata by Dr. H. D. Thomas; Report on the Echinoidea by Dr. Ethel D. Currie; Report on the Corals by Dr. J. W. Gregory; Report on the Ostracoda and Foraminifera by Mary H. Latham; Report on the Fossil Plants by Dr. S. Williams; Report on Igneous Rocks by Agnes Neilson, and on the Stratigraphy of the Kenya Coastlands and a List of Localities by Meta McKinnon Wood. (Glasgow University Publications, 17.) Pp. vi + 232 + 24 plates. (Glasgow: Jackson, Wylie and Co., 1930.)

THE fossils described in this monograph were collected by Miss M. McKinnon Wood from an area extending from 20 miles north of Malindi to about 15 miles south of Mombasa and stretching inland for 30 to 40 miles along the Kenya-Uganda railway. The fossiliferous deposits dip gently toward the coast and are of Jurassic, Cretaceous, Miocene, Pliocene, and post-Pliocene ages. The oldest formation of the coastal sedimentary deposits