

and Prantl's system of classification and is of the descriptive key type, there being a general key to groups and families at the beginning. Many distinctive genera and even species are keyed out at this stage, a fact which may often save a great deal of the user's time. There are further keys to the species under each genus, providing a sufficient description of each species, together with information as to habitat, localities in each island group, time of flowering, etc.

The work includes much of the latest research on the floras of these regions. In addition, the authors have had the assistance of specialists in certain critical genera and this much enhances the value of the book. The chief criticism which may be made is that the international rules of nomenclature are not always adhered to, particularly in respect to hyphenated trivial names, while the taxonomy is sometimes rather out of date; for example, the treatment of *Habenaria*.

The format of the book is excellent, the printing good and the type judiciously selected. There are a few typographical errors, one of the most serious being *Agrostis cania* for *canina* on p. 20. A glossary, indexes to the popular names used in the two countries and two sketch maps add much to the usefulness of the book, which is of convenient pocket size.

V. S. S.

*La fecondation chez les animaux et chez les végétaux.*

Par Dr. Henri Coupin. (Actualités scientifiques et industrielles.) Pp. 203. (Paris: J.-B. Baillière et fils, 1934.) 22 francs.

DR. COUPIN has produced a descriptive account of gamete and zygote formation in the principal kinds of plants and animals, with 112 figures and an index of the names of the plants and animals cited. The matter is arranged according to a scheme explained in the introduction. The first division is made to depend upon whether the zygote is formed inside or outside the body of the organism. In each of these categories we have a series showing isogamy and one showing heterogamy. The further subdivisions depend upon the mobility or immobility of the gametes. So far as possible technical terms have been omitted. Subjects such as nest-building and special mating habits are treated to some extent under the various groups. The information given appears to be generally reliable, but the scheme of arrangement naturally leads to the various types of plants and animals being grouped in a somewhat unusual manner. One result of this is that coelenterates are all considered as being forms in which the zygote is produced within the body of a parent animal.

The book can scarcely be described as one to be read through, but the main facts have been collected between one pair of covers as an extended summary of the subject, which should be useful to students, and for reference when not too much detail is required. Whether the matter in the form in which it is here presented will be of interest to those whom the author calls "les profanes éclairés" is more doubtful.

*Allgemeine Konstitutionslehre in naturwissenschaftlicher und medizinischer Betrachtung.* Von Prof. Dr. O. Naegeli. Zweite Auflage. Pp. vii + 190. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1934.) 16.20 gold marks.

IN recent years two general works have appeared dealing with human heredity from the genetical point of view, namely, that of Ruggles Gates, and the Baur-Fischer-Lenz volume which has been translated into English. Various other books have been written treating particular aspects of the subject or dealing in greater detail with limited fields.

Dr. Naegeli's treatment is from the constitutional viewpoint, yet he says little of Kretschmer but introduces a number of general biological discussions. A section of 26 pages discusses the conception of species, with illustrations mainly from botany, including several coloured figures of orchid varieties. The section on hybridisation also takes its material mainly from the plant world. The final 50 pages are devoted to a discussion of the relation between constitution and infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and various forms of anaemia. A classified list of human abnormalities is given with, for the most part, very little regarding the methods of their inheritance. The author appears to have been unable to make up his mind whether to write a book for medical men or for naturalists, but perhaps this will appeal especially to his Swiss fellow-countrymen in medicine who, it is well known, receive an exceptionally wide biological training.

*A Garden in the Veld.* By R. E. Boddam-Whetham. Pp. 290. (Wynberg: The Specialty Press of S.A. Ltd.; Ashford: L. Reeve and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 16s.

IN this book the author relates her experiences in laying out and cultivating—as a flower garden—the ground of the homestead of a newly acquired farm in the Orange Free State in South Africa. The writer admits that she commenced activities as a beginner with little knowledge of plants or gardening. The photographs bear testimony to the success that has been attained and to the skill she had obviously acquired as a cultivator under somewhat exacting conditions.

A special chapter is devoted to 'wild flowers', or the cultivation of ornamental indigenous species, but relatively few species are dealt with. Here the difficulty of successfully cultivating many of the wild plants is pointed out. It is regrettable that plants are sometimes referred to by common names only; for example, 'silver-lace', 'cotton-bush' (not *Gossypium*) with the result that readers outside the area cannot be expected to know what plant or type of plant is intended.

The book is written in a light or popular style and the notes and advice that the writer offers should be of interest and help to others, similarly situated in the 'high-veld' in South Africa, who are desirous of improving their gardens and surroundings.