

*THE KEW INDEX OF PLANT NAMES.*

*Index Kewensis Plantarum Phanerogamarum.* Sumptibus beati Caroli Roberti Darwin ductu et consilio Josephi D. Hooker confecti B. Daydon Jackson. Fasciculus iv. Pp. 641-1297. (Oxonii: e prelo Clarendoniano, 1895.)

THE serial issue from the press of large works of reference like that under notice does not always proceed with the rapidity which, to those whose appetites are whetted by foretaste, appears possible and desirable. It is therefore with all the more satisfaction that we chronicle the issue with commendable promptness of this, the fourth, fasciculus of the Kew Index, by which the work is brought to completion. Botanists and all who have concern in the names of plants are thereby furnished with a book which must always form an essential tool in their library equipment.

The appearance of the earlier fasciculi gave occasion for a notice in *NATURE* of the aim and scope of the work, and it is not necessary therefore to refer to these again, the less so as the two years that have elapsed since the first fasciculus came into our hands have sufficed to familiarise those who have need to use such a book with its value as a standard work of reference. It may not, however, be mistimed to repeat here the caution given by the Director of Kew in his address at the Ipswich meeting of the British Association, that the work is no more than its name signifies. It is a sound and safe guide; it is not a critical botanical work. The bulk of the names as cited in the Index may be regarded as definitely fixed for the nomenclature of botanists, at least in Great Britain; but throughout the volumes any one may find abundant evidence that it was not the intention of those who have laboured to produce this magnificent work to go beyond the identifications established in the literature of botany at the date at which their citations close. Further study and investigation must result in modifications of limits imposed by the state of botany in 1885, and names will change therewith; but such alterations of names, the acceptance or rejection of which must be a matter of botanical opinion, will not detract from, but will rather enhance the value of the Index as a standard of botanical nomenclature.

In no direction is the beneficent influence of the publication of the Index more immediately to be looked for than in the literature of horticulture, and it is in this aspect that the book will appeal to that large section of the public delighting in gardening, and which naturally objects to purchasing from a nurseryman the same plant over and over again under different names. It would appear that the Index is already exercising an effect, and that nurserymen are disposed to use the botanical name, if not instead of, at least cited alongside of, the trade name for plants in their catalogues—a practical result for which we cannot be too thankful, and in the hastening of which we must recognise the stimulus given by the excellent series of hand-lists of plants cultivated in the Royal Gardens, Kew, now in course of publication.

On the completion of their labours upon this vast work the botanical world will accord to Mr. Daydon Jackson and Sir Joseph Hooker its hearty congratula-

tions, nor will it forget that to Mr. Darwin it owes the projection and endowment of the book. To the Clarendon Press, too, its thanks will be given for the dress in which it has sent out the volumes. Whatever may be the future of botanical nomenclature—and the opening of the twentieth century is threatened with no less an inflection than a new “nomenclator,” prepared in conformity with his own special principles by Dr. Otto Kuntze, which is to sweep away the nomenclature of the Kew, Berlin, and New York “cliques” (the productive seats of systematic botany)—botanists in all time must recognise the sound, judicious, conscientious workmanship displayed in the *Index Kewensis* through which it takes and will retain its value as a work of reference.

*THE ANATOMY OF FEAR.*

*Fear.* By Angelo Mosso. Translated from the fifth edition of the Italian, by E. Lough and F. Kiesow. 8vo. Pp. 277. (London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1896.)

THE learned and eloquent Professor of Physiology at Turin has given us in the book which he has entitled “Fear,” an analysis of this mental condition and its accompanying physical states, which, marked as it is by scientific accuracy and couched in charming and even in poetical diction, will take high rank as a popular exposition of our knowledge of the expression of one of the most interesting of the emotions of both men and animals. The extent of ground which is covered by the author, and the amount of information which he has contrived to convey within a small compass, excites our astonishment and admiration. Nor, in spite of the complicated scientific problems which are dealt with, is there a word of heavy reading from beginning to end. The book is beyond measure interesting, and one that when taken up it is difficult to lay down unread. Clearly it was impossible in a work with this title to avoid gruesome details, and readers whose nerves are disagreeably affected by descriptions of morbid conditions may put the book down with a shudder when they arrive at a passage in which a pathological case, which is used to illustrate the argument, is painted in glowing language from the life. For the author has in no wise burked such details; on the contrary, they come before one from time to time in the work with a vividness which transports one bodily to the hospital ward, the asylum, the vivisection table! But there is at the same time such a strong under-current of sympathy with suffering pervading the whole, that while the reader will come away from the scenes depicted, deeply interested in the lessons which they teach, there is no fear that he will be rendered callous by the familiarity which he has acquired with their horrors.

The idea of the book is to endeavour to rest the expression of this important emotion upon a physiological basis. With this aim in view, the effects of dread upon the heart and circulation, upon the respirations, upon the muscular system both voluntary and visceral, upon the secretions, and upon the central nervous system, are portrayed. Nor does the author confine himself strictly to the emotion which gives the book its