

the various species of the same genus, yet in a semi-popular work of this kind the method has much to be said for it. The coloured plates are beautifully done, and the photographs, of which there is at least one for nearly every species, are almost uniformly excellent, and many of them are triumphs of art. Perhaps the best feature of the work is that the photographs in almost every case show the habit of the plant in its native haunts. Where the plant is shown as part of a landscape the effect is often beautiful, as in the photographs of a reed swamp on a Norfolk broad and of the great yellow watercress. In a photograph such as that which is meant to illustrate the duckweed, the latter occupying only a small patch on the water surface, the conspicuous elements of the vegetation which fill the rest of the figure might have been indicated by marginal names. The "close-up" photographs are almost uniformly successful, and we know of no other series to equal them. Occasionally, however, as in the photograph of the bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), the plants are too closely surrounded by other vegetation to show their distinctive features. The figure of the lily-of-the-valley is evidently taken from a garden. Anyone who has seen it flowering wild in an English copse would wish that the more dainty wild plant might have been captured by the camera in its natural surroundings. The distribution of each species in Britain is given in considerable detail, together with the various local names and a mass of folk-lore the utility of which is somewhat doubtful.

Vol. 5 deals with the flowers of bogs and marshes, heaths and moors, rocks and gravelly places. The same high quality of the illustrations is maintained, and many of the photographs show not only the plant concerned, but also the ecological association in which it flourishes. The last part of this volume includes "Hints and Notes," chiefly on matters ecological, with reference to the plants described. An appendix contains a summary of the natural orders, and short diagnoses of the genera (520) of British flowering plants. This is followed by a bibliography of general works on such matters as the origin and distribution of the British flora, the ecology, pollination, soil, fungal and insect pests, and folk-lore of British plants. A glossary completes the volume.

The sixth and final volume gives unillustrated descriptions of species not included in the earlier volumes. The London Catalogue of British Plants (1908) enumerated nearly 2000 species, and Mr. Druce's British Plant List includes some 3000, of which more than 1000, however, are

aliens. About 147 species are considered endemic, consisting mainly of Rubi and Hieracia.

Differing somewhat in character from any previous treatment of the British flora, this work is particularly to be commended as a semi-popular account emphasising the ecological and natural history aspects, embellished with numerous photographs which for the most part are very carefully selected. It must be said, however, that the ecology is not of a very serious kind.

R. R. G.

Our Bookshelf.

Gynecology. By Dr. Brooke M. Anspach. Pp. xxvi+752. (London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1921.) 42s. net.

WE have here an excellent treatise—exhaustive, clear, well illustrated. The like may be said of many medical books, but the present work is especially good in that it links up, better than most of its predecessors, the student's early scientific work with his later practical instruction. An unavoidable fault of medical training is that it is conducted by relays of specialists, each of whom concentrates on a single subject and trenches as little as possible on the work of his colleagues. First one group of subjects is laid aside, then another, and so on. Theoretically the endeavour is to base practical efficiency on antecedent scientific knowledge; but the human mind forgets as well as learns, and the curriculum is long. Commonly at the end of it something of anatomy, physiology, and biology has faded from the mind of the budding surgeon, physician, and student of man. However well equipped to deal with cut-and-dried matters in established ways, he may fail, through lack of understanding, to meet strange emergencies with new expedients. Becoming a practitioner, he may not remain a thoughtful man of science. In the present work all that is necessary to a full understanding is dealt with lucidly, if briefly. The immediate subject-matter is handled as clearly, but in greater detail. The book may be cordially recommended, for it is very good.

New Alt-Azimuth Tables, 65° N. to 65° S. Pp. xvii+154. (Tokyo: Hydrographic Department, 1920.)

SINCE the very general adoption of the method of navigation known as the Marcq system of position lines, in which, whatever the azimuth, the position line is determined by one and the same problem, the calculation of altitude, many attempts have been made so to simplify the working that the results can to a great extent be effected through the medium of suitably arranged tables by simple inspection. A fresh attempt of this nature forms a leading feature of the excellent little work recently issued by the Hydrographic Department at Tokyo. Like other tables of the kind, such as