Spore-measurements are omitted throughout the entire work, the author regarding the existing records as untrustworthy. This has to be admitted to a certain extent, but could some of the spore-measurements from recent critical work have been included, the value of the descriptions would have been much increased. Everyone who has paid serious attention to the spores of the larger fungi knows that these structures are often of the greatest help for systematic purposes, and it is to be hoped that before long spore-characters will always form an essential part of the diagnosis.

Novelties in the form of new genera and species are few. Attention may be directed to the new genus Togaria, into which the author has placed all the terrestrial species of Pholiota. The recent additions to the British flora have been incorporated, but it is to be regretted that names now known to be synonyms still figure as independent species. A very large number of changes will be observed in the authorities quoted for the Agaricaceæ. This is due to the fact that the author has followed the Vienna rules with regard to the raising of subgenera to the rank of genera.

The book will be of most help to the beginner, and should prove a useful introduction to the study of Basidiomycetes. In the case of the Agaricaceæ several seasons' experience will be necessary before the student acquires much confidence in determinations derived from book descriptions. The diagrams at the end of Smith's synopsis should aid in grasping the generic features, and the numerous keys should save much time in identifying the species.

A. D. C.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Planning of Fever Hospitals and Disinfecting and Cleansing Stations. By Albert C. Freeman. Pp. viii+165. (London: The Sanitary Publishing Company, Ltd., n.d.) Price 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THIS is a work compiled by an architect more particularly for reference purposes by other architects. It provides a practical guide to the planning of fever hospitals, disinfecting and cleansing stations. It contains a large number of plans showing in detail the construction of many fever hospitals which have been provided during recent years; and although the object of the author has been to place before his readers only those examples which demonstrate the most approved principles of design or other points of special interest, several of the plans reproduce the features of other designs and present no essential differences in the details of construction. Mr. Freeman devotes about thirty-five pages to a consideration of the general principles of design and construction in reference to fever hospitals, disinfecting and cleansing stations, and then devotes the rest of the book to the plans and more important features of construction above referred to. The scheme is a good one; but it is a question whether the purpose of the book might not have been even better served if the author had extended his statement upon the most approved features of design and construction, by giving the reader the benefit of more of the opinions and criticisms of one who has evidently made a special study of this matter, and then presenting the plans and details of construction of about a dozen existing hospitals which are specially commended.

The manual embodies much useful information, and it cannot fail to be of value to those who are called upon to design and construct hospital buildings. On the subject of disinfecting stations the work is not likely to be so generally useful. This section of the book stands in need of extension, and here and there of slight amendment. If, for instance, the various types of steam disinfectors are to be dealt with in such a book, the present statement is insufficient. One of the less well-known steam disinfectors (the Velox) is the only apparatus illustrated, and, indeed, the only one which is fully described. The description, moreover, is not so clear as it might be. On p. 148 it is stated that among the practical advantages claimed for this type of machine is the fact that there is no boiler to require scaling, whereas it is stated in the next paragraph that there is a boiler employed to raise steam.

Photographic Optics and Colour Photography, including the Camera, Kinematograph, Optical Lantern, and the Theory and Practice of Image Formation. By Dr. George Lindsay Johnson. Pp. xii+304. (London: Ward and Co., 1909.) Price 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE author is "examiner in photography and theoretical and applied optics to the Spectacle Makers' Company," and states that the primary object of this volume is to cover the ground of this company's examination. The first chapter deals with cameras in a popular rather than a scientific manner. The next two chapters constitute about half the volume, and deal with photographic lenses and the optics relating to their manufacture and use, including the consideration of shutters and artificial illumination. The remaining sections of the book deal with sensitometers, and the other subjects mentioned in the title.

With the exception, perhaps, of the strictly optical part, the various items receive very unequal treatment. Although a whole chapter is devoted to sensitometry, Hurter and Driffield's method, which is the only method stated to be "largely used," is disposed of in the following sentence:—"A sensitometer consisting of a rotating sector, furnished with a ring divided into steps, is now largely used in England, and was invented by Messrs. H. Hurter and Driffield." Dr. Hurter's Christian name was Ferdinand, and his is not the only name given incorrectly. We should like to know what the author means, when referring to the action of light upon a sensitive plate, by the statement that "the light acts on the gelatine substratum and starts freeing the hydrogen." There are many other parts that will certainly mislead the student as they now stand, as, for example, two pages devoted to what appears to even a careful reader to be an attempt to prove by calculation that the focal length of a lens has a direct influence on the relative proportions of the images of objects at different distances. We notice, too, errors in some of the illustrations. The volume needs a thorough revision.

Untersuchungen fossiler Hölzer aus dem westen Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika. By Dr. Paul Platen. Pp. xvi+155; with three plates. (Leipzig: Quelle and Meyer, 1908.) Price 3 marks.

THE Tertiary rocks of some of the south-western portions of the United States have been long known to be remarkable for the abundance and diversity of the silicified trunks of Coniferous and Angiospermous woods, often beautifully preserved, which they have yielded. In this dissertation Dr. Paul Platen, a pupil of Prof. Felix, of Leipzig, whose work on the anatomy of petrified woods is widely known, has described the structure of a considerable number of trunks, for the most part of Tertiary age, from California, Nevada,