

logically as they are incorporated seems sufficiently obvious, but collectors have sometimes numbered each species separately, a system which is possibly open to slight objection so long as the collection is small and composed of well-defined specimens, but which entails endless confusion as the collection increases in size; for instance, if a specimen, as often is the case, displays several species, it may not be easily traced in the register, and, again, if the species has been wrongly determined, a fresh number must be assigned to it. Dr. Brendler rightly lays stress on the importance of supplementing the general register by a card-catalogue in which the species are grouped separately, each card to contain the whole of the available information relating to the corresponding specimen.

The author has greatly increased the value of the book to the amateur collector by inserting lists of firms supplying mineral specimens or materials and apparatus required in the testing, housing or labelling of specimens and quoting, where possible, the prices. An error on p. 7 calls for correction; the branch in Paris of the Foote Mineral Co. (of Philadelphia) has been closed for some years.

G. F. H. S.

THE PLANT KINGDOM.

Das Pflanzenreich. Vols. xxviii. to xxxvii. Scrophulariaceæ-Calceolarieæ. By Fr. Kränzlin. Pp. 128. Price 6.40 marks. Erythroxylaceæ. By O. E. Schulz. Pp. 166. Price 8.80 marks. Styracaceæ. By J. Perkins. Pp. 111. Price 5.60 marks. Potamogetonaceæ. By P. Ascherson and P. Graebner. Pp. 184. Price 9.20 marks. Orchidaceæ-Cœlogyninæ. By E. Pfitzer and Fr. Kränzlin. Pp. 169. Price 8.40 marks. Liliaceæ-Aloineæ. By A. Berger. Pp. 347. Price 17.60 marks. Sarraceniaceæ. By J. M. Macfarlane. Pp. 89. Price 2.40 marks. Stylidiaceæ. By J. Mildbraed. Pp. 98. Price 5 marks. Nepenthaceæ. By J. M. Macfarlane. Pp. 92. Price 4.60 marks. Araceæ-Monsteroideæ and Calloideæ. By A. Engler and K. Krause. Pp. 160. Price 8.40 marks. (Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann.)

THE ten volumes forming the subject of the present notice have appeared at intervals during the last two years. Six volumes deal with entire families, while four are confined to tribes. The tribe of the Calceolarieæ, represented by two small genera and Calceolaria, is collated by Dr. Franz Kränzlin. Fifty years ago these South American plants were in great request, but interest in collection and cultivation has waned until recently the collections of Dr. Weberbauer in Peru have furnished a number of new species. Basing his opinion on the well-known tendency of Calceolaria to hybridise, the author favours the view that natural hybrids occur, and appends a list of possible hybrids.

The volume on the Erythroxylaceæ is practically a monograph of the genus Erythroxylon. Systematic alterations are introduced by Miss J. Perkins in the

family Styracaceæ; the genera Lissocarpa and Diclidanthera are excluded, Foveolaria is reduced to Styrax, and Pterostyrax is restored to generic rank. The distribution and a high proportion of endemic species are outstanding features of the principal genus Styrax. Dr. Graebner has undertaken the difficult task of classifying the Potamogetonaceæ, with the help of Dr. Ascherson for the marine genera. The chief difficulty lies in the interpretation of the numerous critical species of Potamogeton, which also hybridise readily; lists of hybrids and fossil species are given.

The monograph treating the tribe Cœlogyninæ is of considerable importance because the talented author, Dr. Pfitzer, who died before the manuscript was quite complete, had adopted a definite opinion with regard to splitting the large orchidaceous genera of which Cœlogyne furnishes a good example. Besides restoring some old genera, five new ones were formed, and are left by Dr. Kränzlin on Pfitzer's authority. The Aloineæ fills a thick volume, as the genera Kniphofia and Haworthia each provides more than sixty species, and the species of Aloe number 168. The tribe, almost entirely African, supplies a number of the succulent plants cultivated in green-houses in northern climates or acclimatised on the Mediterranean littoral. Hybridisation is prevalent, and is even intergeneric, as crosses have been effected between species of Gasteria, on the one hand, and Aloe, Haworthia, and Apicræa on the other.

The two families Sarraceniaceæ and Nepenthaceæ have been monographed by Prof. J. M. Macfarlane, who presents his general descriptions in English. Naturally, a full account is provided of the lures for insects and the question of insect digestion. Sarracenia furnishes a number of artificial hybrids, and some natural hybrids have also been discovered. The name of Stylidiaceæ displaces the Candolleaceæ of the "Pflanzenfamilien," and Candollea gives way to Stylidium. Dr. J. Mildbraed also restores Forstera and Oreostylidium to generic rank. Finally, Drs. Engler and K. Krause have worked out two tribes of the Araceæ. Raphidophora, Monstera, and Spathiphyllum are the more important genera, all belonging to the tribe Monsteroideæ.

THE COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY OF MAN.

The Human Species, considered from the Standpoints of Comparative Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Bacteriology. By Ludwig Hopf. Authorised English translation. Pp. xx+457. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1909.) Price 10s. 6d. net.

THE literature of evolution is exceedingly extensive and varied, but there are not many books which, in a small compass, place before the general reader a simple account of man's structure, nature, and zoological relationships extending over the whole field of anthropology. This task has been attempted with considerable success in the present volume. Commencing with a review of the speculations of primitive man as to his own origin, the author passes