

HINTS FOR THE GARDEN.

- (1) *The Carnation Year Book*, 1910. Edited by J. S. Brunton. The official organ of the Perpetual Flowering Carnation Society. Pp. 53. Price 1s.
- (2) *Gardening Difficulties Solved. Expert Answers to Amateurs' Questions*. Edited by H. H. Thomas. Pp. 160. (London: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 1s. net.
- (3) *Leitfaden für gärtnerische Pflanzenzuchtung*. By M. Löbner. Pp. vii+160. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1909.) Price 1.50 marks.
- (4) *Wild Flowers and How to Identify Them*. By H. Friend. Pp. 64. (London: Robert Culley, 1910.) Price 1s. net.

THE popularity of the carnation as a florist's flower has already been enhanced by the spread of the American or perpetual flowering carnation, and will become more so as the qualities of this type are more generally recognised. Originally raised in France where they were known as "remontants," their value was not realised until American growers took up their cultivation with excellent results. Only within the last decade have British horticulturists entered the field, but sufficient growers were found in 1906 to form the society which offers the "Carnation Year Book" (1) as its official organ. One important object of the society is to undertake the registration of new varieties; about a dozen have so far been registered, including the already famous Britannia and Mrs. H. Burnett, as compared with about 800 recognised by the corresponding American society. The volume contains several short articles, of which the most interesting deal with cultivation and hybridisation.

(2) Amateur gardeners do not lack opportunities for obtaining assistance in their difficulties, as all the gardening papers are prepared to supply expert advice. The brochure edited by Mr. Thomas has been collated from replies to correspondents inserted in the columns of the *Gardener*. The questions cover a wide field, so that, although they are grouped in sections, it is a small chance that any specific matter for which the book is consulted will be mentioned therein. So far as it goes, the information is sound and practical, and some practical hints are conveyed in the illustrations.

(3) The perusal of Herr Löbner's book has afforded much pleasure and instruction, as it provides a successful combination of scientific teaching and practical experience. The book consists of a general part dealing with the acquisition of new plants by selection, hybridisation, importation, grafting, and sports—here limited to vegetative anomalies—and a special part in which the origin of specific novelties is treated. It is only possible in the limited space to note that the author discusses seed-fixation, the means of getting seed from double flowers, fertile and infertile hybrids, and the keeping qualities of pollen. In the latter part no section is more interesting than that on roses which includes some account of the author's experience.

(4) The arrangement for identifying British plants offered by Mr. Friend is, to all intents and purposes,

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the Linnean system, with the omission of many genera; species are only cited for eight genera, and then partially. The notes on season, habitat, and structure provide but little help towards identification, especially as no clear definition is given for some of the technical terms, e.g. fruit, bract, and stipule; further, there is a singular confusion on p. 32 of bulb and root, corm and tuber.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Telegraphic Transmission of Photographs. By T. Thorne Baker. Pp. xi+146. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

THOSE who look at the illustrated papers, and especially readers of *The Daily Mirror*, are aware that the telegraphic transmission of photographs has already entered the commercial stage, and if the results are not yet all that can be desired it will generally be admitted that they reach a high standard of merit considering the very numerous difficulties that have had to be surmounted. This little book from the pen of Mr. Thorne Baker, who has been carrying out the work for *The Daily Mirror* during the last two-and-a-half years, is consequently very welcome.

A brief historical survey of the earlier work is given, and a more detailed account of the later work of Prof. Korn, M. Belin, and the author, which has resulted in the development of systems of actual commercial value. One is impressed throughout by the number of small difficulties which have had to be overcome by persevering experiment, and it is evident that the present state of the art owes its perfection considerably to the development of the kindred arts of photography and reproduction without which the advances on the purely electrical side would have been of slight avail. Problems such as this, though theoretically simple of solution, present great difficulties on account of the amount of technical skill and knowledge of a number of different subjects that is required.

The book is well written and illustrated. A good deal will only be understood by the technical reader fairly well equipped with electrical knowledge, but there is sufficient simple description to enable the non-technical reader to acquire a very fair idea of the whole subject. Some of the phototelegrams which are reproduced are excellent, especially when looked at from a sufficient distance to render the "grain" indistinct, and the two sketches transmitted by wireless telegraphy, though poor in themselves, afford evidence of still further possibilities of development.

M. S.

Liste des Observatoires Magnétiques et des Observatoires Séismologiques. By E. Merlin and O. Somville. Pp. x+192. (Brussels: Havez, Rue de Louvain, 112, 1910.)

To those who seek to establish definite relationships between solar and terrestrial phenomena, the multiplication of well-distributed stations equipped for the observation of terrestrial magnetism and earth movements is a hopeful sign. Hitherto, one of the grave difficulties encountered in such researches has been the paucity of trustworthy and continuous data for sufficiently long periods.

The list now published leads us to hope that a future generation may be more fortunate, for here we find some 220 observatories, of which at least eighty are devoted to the study of terrestrial magnetism and electricity.

The usefulness of such a list has been proved, in principle, by the publication of a similar list of astronomical observatories in 1907, and the Royal Ob-