

development of the group and on the anatomy of Doris and of *Æolidia*; whilst the questions of classification, affinities, and descriptions of species occupy the latter half of the work. On these sections, the author's intimate knowledge of his subject confers a philosophic caution and breadth of treatment. Attention may be directed especially to the discussion of the relations existing between nudibranch and tectibranch mollusca (pp 89-92), and to the descriptions of fifteen species not described in the monograph. Malacologists are under a great debt to Sir Charles for this fine work, which is worthy of the classic that it supplements.

F. W. G.

WILD FLOWERS.

Wild Flowers of the British Isles. Illustrated and written by H. Isabel Adams. Revised by James E. Bagnall. Vol. ii., order xlii., Campanulaceæ to order lxxxvi., Araceæ, completing the British Wild Flowers with the exception of Water Plants and Trees. Pp. xi+199. (London: W. Heinemann, 1910.) Price 30s. net.

THE talented author of the volume under review has made the fatal mistake of attempting to serve two masters, and with the inevitable result. From the artistic point of view the plates are for the most part very good, and they combine accuracy of detail with beauty of arrangement. No doubt they have suffered somewhat in the process of reproduction by the three-colour process, especially as regards the green tints, but the original drawings must be excellent. An attempt has been made to produce a British flora of an up-to-date character, based on the last edition (10th) of the London catalogue, and also to produce an illustrated flora. The work before us is incomplete from both points of view.

As a flora the omission of trees, referred to on the title-page, is a great mistake, but the complete neglect of Juncaceæ, Cyperaceæ, Gramineæ, and other monocotyledonous natural orders, without a word of explanation, deprives the book of any real scientific value. "Water plants" are also said to be excepted, as well as trees, but the definition of a water plant adopted by the writer must be individual and peculiar since *Hottonia palustris*, *Nymphoides (Villarsia) peltatum*, *Lobelia Dortmanna*, and others are not only included but illustrated. It is not easy to suggest any reason for the omission of other natural orders not specifically referred to, such as Elæagnaceæ and Loranthaceæ. There can be no question that both sea buckthorn and mistletoe are "wild flowers of the British Isles"; the former might be ruled out of court as a tree, but its claim to inclusion is a strong one when the non-British *Lycium chinense* forms the subject of a well-executed drawing. The common privet, too, is scarcely a tree. Plantains also, wild flowers *par excellence* and decorative also, fail to find a place in the volume, and one is tempted to conclude that certain plants do not find favour with the writer. It is not a case apparently of the weakest going to the wall or of suffering minorities, since other natural orders with only one or two genera are to be found in their proper place.

NO. 2144, VOL. 85]

The descriptions of the various species are on the whole well drawn up, and some interesting general information is given under each natural order. An attempt is made in some orders to make a slight key to the genera and species, but unfortunately for the unlearned student the keys are not very helpful. In the Labiatae, for instance, the contrasted heads of the key have no logical sequence. They run as follows:—

Corolla, 2-lipped, and usually 5-lobed.

Stamens 4, 2 outer longer.

Stamens 4; calyx-tube with 10-13 ribs.

Calyx 2-lipped, closed in fruit; stamens included in upper corolla-lip.

Corolla bell-shaped, with 4 nearly equal lobes; calyx with 5 equal teeth.

There appears to be no reason from such a key why one genus should be placed under one heading rather than under another.

Enough has been said to show that this book cannot rank as a valuable contribution to the science of botany, and it is all the more to be regretted when the excellence of the drawings is considered. Although in some of the plates there is unnecessary crowding, yet the draughtsmanship throughout is of a high order, and the plates of *Convolvulus* and *Tamus communis*, to mention two only, are beautiful works of art. A complete series of plant pictures of our British flora by Mrs. Adams would be of considerable value, and it is a matter for regret that so much skill and labour should have been expended on a book so pretentious and incomplete, which, with all its accuracy of drawing, unfortunately can only be regarded as a work for the drawing-room table.

SHALLOW-WATER STARFISHES.

Echinoderma of the Indian Museum. By Prof. Rene Koehler. Part vi., Asteroidea (ii). An Account of the Shallow-water Asteroidea. Pp. 191+xx plates. (Calcutta: Printed by order of the Trustees of the Indian Museum.) Price 20 rupees.

IN this carefully executed and copiously illustrated memoir the starfishes of the Indian littoral are for the first time regimented, from material collected, between the Persian Gulf and the Malay Peninsula, during thirty years of steady work, by the Royal Indian marine survey-ship *Investigator*, supplemented by local contributions from the recently commissioned Bengal Government Fisheries' steamer, *Golden Crown*.

Sixty-seven species are enumerated, of which twenty-eight are described as new. Among the novelties, though there is nothing very surprising, the species of *Astropecten*, *Anthenea*, *Goniodiscus*, *Nardoa*, *Luidia*, and *Ophidiaster* predominate.

Of old-established species several that were insufficiently characterised by their authors, or that have never been figured, are here re-described with infinite care, or interpreted by wonderfully lucid photographs, according to the requirements of each case, the author having taken the trouble to rivet attention on nothing less authentic than the very "types." This method of work, together with the fact that certain genera—