

case it is surely confusing to apply the term "anterior" to the anal interradius. Such differences of opinion cannot, however, detract from the value of a book which is essentially a clear and accurate statement of things seen.

F. A. BATHER.

*Les Zoocécidies des plantes d'Afrique, d'Asie, et d'Océanie.*

Par Prof. C. Houard. Tome 1: Cryptogames, Gymnospermes, Monocotylédones, Dicotylédones (1<sup>re</sup> partie), Nos. 1 à 1806. Pp. 496. Tome 2: Dicotylédones (2<sup>e</sup> partie), Index bibliographique, Nos. 1807 à 3293. Pp. 497-1056. (Paris: J. Hermann, 1922-1923.) 2 vols. 100 francs.

DURING the years 1906-1913, Prof. Houard, professor of botany in the University of Strasbourg, placed all cecidologists deeply in his debt by the issue of his three fine volumes on "Les Zoocécidies des plantes d'Europe et du bassin de la Méditerranée." He has now covered Africa, Asia, and Australasia. Only America remains, and it is to be hoped that Prof. Houard will continue his indefatigable labours and encompass the zoocécidology of the globe. The present work is based essentially on the same plan as its predecessor: a short introduction and table of abbreviations, and then a descriptive catalogue of the animal galls of plants, the latter arranged systematically according to Engler and Prantl's "Pflanzenfamilien." This is followed by a bibliographical index of more than seven hundred memoirs of which Prof. Houard himself may be justly proud to claim sixty-five items; by zoological and alphabetical tables of the animal organisms producing galls on plants, an index of plant hosts, and a general index. The volumes are illustrated by a portrait frontispiece and nearly two thousand figures, which although small are quite adequate.

Three thousand two hundred and ninety-three galls are described, and by his ingenious system of abbreviations, and rather rare power of indicating the chief morphological features in a few words, Prof. Houard manages to convey, often in a line or two of print, quite an astonishing amount of information concerning the structure of the gall, its geographical distribution and the causal agent. To each description is appended the bibliography of the particular gall with a note of the memoirs in which a figure is to be found.

Looking through the bibliography one is a little dismayed to find how little British cecidologists have contributed toward a knowledge of the galls found in lands within the British Empire. There are, of course, exceptions, as the well-known names of Lounsbury, Froggatt, Fuller, Green, Maskell, and others indicate, but one must confess that one would like to see British names a little more prominent and numerous. The volumes are very well produced, and botanist and zoologist alike will thank Prof. Houard for placing in their hands so valuable a contribution to so fascinating a subject.

*La Radiologie et la guerre.* By Mme. P. Curie. (Nouvelle Collection scientifique.) Pp. 144+xvi Plates. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1921.) 8 francs net.

THE distinguished author of this little book narrates briefly the part which the X-rays played in the medical services of the French Army during the War, or more

correctly the radiological experiences which she herself had during those momentous years as technical director of the radiological work of the Patronage National des Blessés.

The book commences with two short chapters on the nature and production of X-rays. Then follows an account of typical installations employed in hospitals and lorries in the field. A chapter is given up to a description of radiological work in hospitals and is devoted mainly to methods of localising foreign bodies and the examination of fractures. Mme. Curie expresses herself in favour of a preliminary fluorescent screen examination before resorting to photography—a subject on which there is a division of opinion in Great Britain. There is a paragraph on the protective measures essential for the X-ray operator. It is now well known that complete protection may be secured; and in Great Britain at any rate, there has latterly been a steady improvement in the working conditions in hospitals and elsewhere, thanks to the work of the X-ray and Radium Protection Committee and the National Physical Laboratory.

Later chapters in the book deal with questions of personnel and organisation of X-ray departments. Brief mention is made of radiotherapy and radium therapy. As was the case with the British army, when the value of the X-rays had been realised there was an enormous expansion of the French radiological services during the War; and Mme. Curie quotes some striking figures in this connexion. For example, she estimates that in the course of the years 1917 and 1918, well over one million X-ray examinations were conducted by the organisation under her direction.

The nation's appreciation of war achievements is now dulled, but this little book prompts the suggestion that an account of the British radiological activities during the War should be put on record.

G. W. C. K.

*Light and Colour.* By Dr. R. A. Houstoun. Pp. xi+179+10 plates. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1923.) 7s. 6d. net.

DR. HOUSTOUN'S book deals with wide aspects of the science of light and colour, and will be found of interest by photographers and medical students as well as by members of the public generally. There is an excellent chapter on invisible rays, including a description of Prof. Rankine's method of wireless telephony and Dr. Fournier's optophone, by which a blind man is able to read ordinary printed matter, such as books and newspapers. A very clear and simple account of the X-ray spectrometer is included, and also an account of the current views of the structure of the atom. Primary and complementary colours are described by the author, who gives the usual table of complementary colours—that of Helmholtz—while he states that Helmholtz is not so definite on the subject as is generally supposed: he does not give the defects of Helmholtz's methods, by which indeed no consistent results can be obtained. In ascertaining complementary colours it is absolutely necessary that a comparison white light of known composition be used. Without this there is only a mental estimation of the white, in other words guess-work.

Colour blindness and various methods of detecting