

fine collection of exotic plants under cultivation. From Dr. Cockayne's book it is clear that in the New Zealand Botanic Gardens, care is taken to cultivate as representative a collection of the native plants as may be possible, and the efforts which have been made in this direction are worthy of the highest praise.

Now, thanks to Dr. Cockayne, the same aim is made possible and easy to all lovers of gardens in New Zealand, as he gives full particulars as to how the plants should be procured and cultivated, and then goes on to give lists with good descriptive accounts and methods of propagation of the native trees, shrubs, Veronicas, herbs, climbing plants, and ferns suitable for gardens. There is also an interesting and very useful chapter on native plants suitable for town gardening. The book is well illustrated with a number of excellent plates, and is also furnished with a map and full index.

*Das Wildseemoor bei Kaltenbrunn im Schwarzwald: ein Naturschutzgebiet.* Von Dr. Karl Müller. Pp. vi + 161 + 19 Tafeln. (Karlsruhe i. B.: G. Braun G.m.b.H., 1924.) 3 marks.

THE author spent thirteen years in the study of a particular piece of moorland vegetation in the vicinity of Baden-Baden. The area is noted for its beauty and Dr. Müller loves the region—a fact that contributes largely to the fascination of the book. But not only is the Wildsee a lovely spot, it is also of peculiar interest to the student of natural history. In his preface the author states that “the fauna and flora of the moor is that of the arctic-alpine type comparable to an island in the midst of a sea of central European forest produced by the ecological singularity of its position.” Beginning with the history of the moor from the eighteenth century, he traces its life from 1780 when its water supply was originally tapped. Later, the peat itself was exploited. During these periods the drained areas were utilised for afforestation schemes with conspicuous failure—sphagnum growing most freely on those areas from which the peat had been taken and reconverting them into bogs. Since the Armistice, the author's knowledge of the region and his numerous articles upon it have assisted in the postponement of further projects to use the peat, and we are glad to learn that this beauty spot will be converted into a national preserve. The book is well illustrated with photographs and maps, but unfortunately it does not possess an index, though it has a good table of contents. It will appeal to all lovers of Nature and to students of ecology, for it contains much useful material attractively arranged regarding moorland vegetation. It was written originally to interest all who know and love this beautiful part of the Black Forest.

*Lectures on the History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.* By Sir Michael Foster. Second impression. Pp. vii + 306. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1924.) 15s. net.

THE history of the development of medicine has been told many times, but rarely can we gather from these accounts a clear history of the two subjects, anatomy and physiology, on which the whole structure of the art of healing is built. The late Sir Michael Foster's book consists of the “Lane Lectures” delivered at the Cooper Medical College in San Francisco in the year

1900, and gives a detailed narrative of the progress of physiology in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. In one important detail it differs from many books of its type; it is the history of the science, not merely of the lives of scientific workers. Yet there is included much about the personal histories of the pioneers of physiology which stimulates additional interest in the fruits of their labours. The author sees in the efforts of Vesalius against the blind dogma of the Middle Ages the foundations of modern physiology and modern anatomy; Harvey's great work he regards as the direct outcome of those efforts. The influence of advancing knowledge of physics and chemistry is demonstrated in the ideas of Borelli, Paracelsus, and Franciscus Sylvius. In Mayow's realisation of the functions of what is now called oxygen there is an illustration of how a great scientific discovery may be completely ignored in its time and find recognition after more than a century.

The value of this book may be indicated by quoting the author's own words. “It is one of the lessons of the history of science that each age steps on the shoulders of the ages which have gone before.” The student will find in the book an account of this progression which will enable him better to understand the physiology of his own age.

*Antiques: their Restoration and Preservation.* By A. Lucas. Pp. viii + 136. (London: E. Arnold and Co., 1924.) 6s. net.

MR. LUCAS's book forms a very useful introduction to the modern methods of treatment of antiques, on which subject very little literature has hitherto been available, but, being written in as non-technical a manner as possible, it is likely to be of more value to the antiquarian than to the chemist.

The work is divided into four chapters, the first two giving a general outline of methods of treatment, while the third is devoted to their application to specific materials. A short final chapter gives certain simple tests for determining the composition of objects.

While the majority of the methods recommended in the third chapter have been found to be safe, yet certain of the author's methods would be dangerous in inexperienced hands. For example, the treatment of papyrus by soaking in water is somewhat drastic. Papyrus, which is composed of small sheets stuck together, is very liable to disintegrate under treatment, and it is safer to cover it with moist blotting-paper. But in most cases the author has confined himself to describing methods of proved utility, which, provided the fragility of antique objects is borne in mind, can be used by any one. He is, however, rather unduly fond of the use of paraffin wax, to which cellulose acetate is usually to be preferred.

Some of the tests given in the fourth chapter may be misleading to those ignorant of science. The methods given for determining specific gravity are likely to be very inaccurate. Since the object must in any case be weighed in air, it would be better to instruct the reader how to weigh it in water, for only thus can an opinion be formed as to the genuineness of, for example, a coin. But these are comparatively small faults in a book which all antiquarians will be well advised to study.

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