

some of the résumés detracts considerably from their value. No explanation is given, for example, of St. John's schematic section of a sunspot, reproduced on p. 100, neither is any reference to be found to the work of Evershed, A. Fowler, and Maunder on sunspots and their spectra. The usefulness of Part 2 would have been increased by fuller explanation or wider bibliography on matters (such as the distances and numbers of the spiral nebulae) where conclusions are not yet generally accepted.

*The Making of the Future. The Coal Crisis and the Future: a Study of Social Disorders and their Treatment.* By P. Abercrombie, V. Branford, C. Desch, P. Geddes, C. W. Saleeby, and E. Kilburn Scott. Pp. xi + 111 + xlv. (London: Leplay House Press; Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1926.) 8s. 6d.; paper, 6s.

In this volume the coal problem is attacked from various angles by the several contributors, though a certain coherency is obtained, since most of the writers would appear to subscribe to the viewpoint of the 'sociologist.' The quality is, however, somewhat uneven, and it is to be feared that many readers will become impatient of the terminology and verbosity of certain of the writers. About one-half of the volume is devoted to an account of the "Conditions of Eutopian Repair and Reconstruction." This, though it may interest some readers, would have been improved by compression, as it is somewhat vague and at times irrelevant. The appendices do not appear to bear very directly on the problems of the coal industry. Several of the papers, however, are more concise and contain some interesting matter. Prof. Desch and Mr. Kilburn Scott contribute readable articles on the technical aspects of coal utilisation; Dr. Saleeby pleads on hygienic grounds for the elimination of the smoke nuisance, while Prof. Abercrombie describes the planning of the Kent coal-field on the basis of regional surveys.

*Handbuch der Pflanzenanatomie.* Herausgegeben von Prof. K. Linsbauer. Lief. 13 (II., 2B.; Bg. 1-4). 2 Abteilung, 2 Teil: *Peridophyten und Anthophyten.* Band IX. 2: *Die Vegetationsorgane der Anthophyten. Organe besonderer physiologischer Dignität. A: Die Absorptionsorgane der parasitischen Samenpflanzen.* Von Prof. Dr. Adolf Sperlich. Pp. iv + 52. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1925.) 4.50 gold marks.

The section of this handbook of plant anatomy at present under notice discusses briefly the ascertained facts as to the haustoria of the parasitic or semi-parasitic flowering plants. Dr. Sperlich divides them into three groups: he gives most space to the haustoria of (1) the Rhinanthæ, Orobanchaceæ, and Balanophoraceæ, and (2) the less parasitic Santalaceæ, Loranthaceæ, and Olacaceæ, with which group he includes the wholly parasitic Rafflesiaceæ. He puts in a special section, but discusses very briefly, the more root-like but still morphologically distinctive organ, the haustorium of Cuscuta. Curiously enough, with reference to recent papers recently referred to in NATURE of February 6, p. 210, and subsequent correspondence (NATURE, March 27, p. 452), no citation is given of the paper by Mrs. Thoday (Sykes) upon Cuscuta, and the

question of the possible presence and function of the phloem in the haustorium is not touched upon.

*Les fleurs de la Côte d'Azur (De Toulon à Menton).* Par Léon Marret. (Encyclopédie pratique du naturaliste, 21.) Pp. 428 + 112 planches. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1926.) 40 francs.

THIS flora, which is well illustrated with text figures and some coloured plates, will be found of great service to botanists and plant lovers visiting the Riviera. It is divided into four main sections. In the first portion the native wild vegetation is described and figures are given of the more important wild plants of the region. The second portion is devoted to "Les Cultures ornementales"; that is, the introduced plants to be found in the gardens and parks of the Côte d'Azur. In the third part the industrial plants are dealt with; and finally a large section is devoted to "Les Cultures alimentaires." In the first portion the plants are referred to under their ecological formations, those of the sand dunes, maquis, garrigues, rocky situations, marshes and meadows, and mountains, and much interesting and useful information is given. The illustrations are scattered throughout the volume, and the reader may find it a little difficult to identify any particular plant or to find his way easily about the book. It is, however, a very useful volume and worthy of careful study by any one interested in the rich native and exotic vegetation of the Riviera.

*Combustion in the Power Plant: a Coal Burner's Manual.* By Thomas A. Marsh. Second printing, corrected. Pp. xi + 255. (London, Bombay and Sydney: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 12s. net.

As the title indicates, this book deals with the author's experience in the operation of steam boilers in central power plants, and in the main with American plants. Thus much of the contents has little direct bearing on conditions elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent. of the space is devoted to describing the coals of the United States and their behaviour in boiler furnaces.

The discussion of the relative suitability of the various patterns of stoker to different fuels does contain information of general application, and the author's experience of this and other problems of steam-raising on the large scale will be useful to boiler-house operators. They will also be entertained, for this is no dignified scientific treatise, and the writer never disdains enforcing an argument by means of an anecdote.

H. J. H.

*Le radium: découverte de la radioactivité et du radium, origine de l'énergie radioactive, le radium dans la nature, ses emplois usuels.* Par F. Honoré. Pp. viii + 145. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie, 1925.) 18 francs.

M. HONORÉ is a member of the staff of *L'Illustration*, and his book is virtually an enlarged edition of a series of articles which he contributed to that journal. It therefore gives an attractive and popular account of the discovery, manufacture, properties and applications of radium and associated substances, which should appeal to educated members of the general public. Strangely enough, the artificial disintegration of elements by means of  $\alpha$ -rays does not appear to be mentioned in this book.