

that none is given, the only references being scattered notes in the text and rather inadequate footnotes.

There are more than 150 excellent plates, in which are figured several hundred dogs, from those of ancient Assyria and Egypt down to the living championship winners of to-day. These have been collected from many sources, and they alone testify to the care and perseverance which have gone to the building of what will doubtless be a classical work on dogs and one which should find its way to every good reference library, as well as to the shelves of every dog-lover who can afford it.

Local Floras.

- (1) *The Flora of Buckinghamshire: with Biographical Notices of Those who have contributed to its Botany during the Last Three Centuries.* By Dr. George Claridge Druce. Pp. cxxvii + 437. (Arbroath: T. Buncle and Co., 1926.) n.p.
- (2) *The Field-Club Flora of the Lothians.* By the Botanical Committee of the Edinburgh Natural History Society. Edited by Isa H. Martin. Pp. viii + 142. (Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons, Ltd., 1927.) 5s. net.

(1) **T**O be the author of three complete county floras is an achievement which we believe to be unique in the annals of British botany, although C. C. Babington, in addition to his floras of Cambridgeshire and the Channel Islands, compiled the catalogue known as the "Flora Bathoniensis." The present flora is the third from the pen of Dr. Druce, whose flora of Oxfordshire was published in 1886 and the flora of Berkshire in 1897. A flora of Buckinghamshire is the more welcome as no previous flora has ever been published of the county, though a catalogue of 719 species without localities was issued by the late Mr. James Britten in 1867 under the title of a "Flora of Buckinghamshire." The work before us contains records of about 930 species, exclusive of aliens and the microspecies of *Rubus* and *Taraxacum*, or slightly more than the number recorded by Pryor for the neighbouring county of Hertford.

To the student of geographical distribution, the most interesting species of the area is *Danaa cornubiense* (*Physospermum aquilegifolium*), which is otherwise confined in Britain to Cornwall and Devon. The flourishing condition of this plant in its one station is, we may note, rendered significant by the fact that several 'western' species occupy their eastern limit at Burnham Beeches also. This is shown by the occurrence there of the liverwort

Microlejeunea ulicina, or the very rare snail *Vitrina major*, in company with the north-western mollusc *Acanthinula lamellata*. Of the extinct and diminishing species, it is of interest to note that plants of wet habitats predominate, as was shown to obtain in the neighbouring county of Hertford. The introduction contains a brief account of the contributions to the botanical knowledge of the county, in which a short autobiography of Dr. Druce is of especial interest.

This work emphasises once more the debt that British field botany owes to the pharmaceutical profession in general and to the author in particular.

(2) "The Field-Club Flora of the Lothians" is a much smaller work, of a size convenient for the pocket, and embodies the records of the Edinburgh Natural History Society. Localities are given, and a few ecological lists for some selected stations are furnished. Some eight species are noted as having recently become apparently extinct, amongst which we may note especially *Corallorrhiza innata*, *Linnaea borealis*, *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, *Crambe maritima*, *Genista pilosa*, and *Thalictrum flavum*. It is to be regretted that the size, weight, and cost of this little book were increased by the rather unnecessary inclusion of a glossary and seventeen plates illustrative of the botanical terms, as these bear no relation to the main text and are scarcely adequate to the comprehension of a descriptive flora. Nevertheless, despite the diminished convenience, field botanists will welcome this addition to our local floras.

E. J. S.

Our Bookshelf.

Dredging and Dredging Appliances. By P. M. Dekker. Pp. xvi + 170. (London: Crosby Lockwood and Sons, 1927.) 36s. net.

DREDGERS are an extremely varied, albeit highly specialised, type of vessel, interesting alike to the naval architect, the engineer, and the shipbuilder. Literature on the subject of dredger design is, however, far from voluminous and, indeed, is remarkable more for its paucity than for its fullness. There is abundant scope, then, for the volume by Mr. Dekker, and his description of a number of present-day dredging vessels and appliances forms a useful addition to the reference library of the practising engineer. It will be felt, on perusal, that the book is, in fact, mainly descriptive, and that it concentrates largely on individual examples of dredger construction. This does not detract from the utility of the work as a practical directory to the subject, but it still leaves the field open for a dissertation on the principles underlying dredger design. Such a work would, perhaps, be the special province of the naval architect.

Mr. Dekker's book is not divided into chapters,