

"burble" in Jabberwocky. The word can also be found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary! More references to Prandtl (who receives two), G. I. Taylor (who receives one) and Lanchester (who receives none) in the index of a book on theoretical hydrodynamics would not be out of place. There are a number of points of similar order of importance dealing with the text, but one does not wish to dilate upon them lest the impression be conveyed that the defects outweigh the many important qualities of the book.

The 508 examples which are included in the

book lead one to assume that Prof. Milne-Thomson intends the book to be used for teaching purposes. Unfortunately, the price is prohibitive so far as most students are concerned. The book, however, is a valuable asset in any library, as it indicates clearly and fully what has been done and what can be done by classical processes and by vector notation. It is to be hoped that some day Prof. Milne-Thomson will turn his attention to more modern theories, and will give us as clear an exposition of them as he has of the foundations of the subject.

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Exploring for Plants

The World was my Garden:
Travels of a Plant Explorer. By David Fairchild, assisted by Elizabeth and Alfred Kay. Pp. xiv + 494 + 129 plates. (New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938.) 18s. net.

THIS book is the autobiography of David Fairchild, written with the assistance of Elizabeth and Alfred Kay. It consists of an account of his life and of his varied experiences during the course of his journeyings as a plant explorer. In early manhood, Fairchild's chief interests were in the direction of plant pathology, and it was not until 1895, when he met his friend and benefactor, Barbour Lathrop, that he began to concentrate on the problems of plant introduction. For the next twenty years, he travelled continuously all over the world collecting plants, particularly those of economic importance, and dispatching them to his native country. He finally became head of the Division of Foreign Plant Exploration and Introduction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and retired in 1935.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century was the golden age of the plant collector. World communications had already developed considerably, but vast new areas had only just been explored or were in the process of being put on the map. This state of affairs coincided with the great interest that was being taken in the application of science to agriculture, and Fairchild sized up the possibilities of the situation in a remarkable fashion, and made the most of his opportunities. Wherever he went he seems to have found, with comparatively little difficulty, types and varieties of cultivated crops and fruits that were either not established in, or were unknown to, the United States, and which if introduced would be of great value to the agriculturists and horticulturists of the New World.

A perusal of these pages will bring home to the reader what these opportunities were and the success that crowned Fairchild's efforts. He journeyed without ceasing for many years and the record of his travels is almost kaleidoscopic in its effect on the reader. He tells of trips to Iraq for new varieties of dates, to Egypt for staple cotton, to Western China for tung oil and to the Argentine for a hardy type of avocado. These are a few only of the many mentioned in this volume. Much of the material was apparently picked up with comparatively little effort, for in those days the field was almost a virgin one. Later in life, he was able to consolidate his earlier work by establishing acclimatization stations in the United States.

The narrative is a long one and so packed with incidents that at times it is somewhat difficult to digest all the matter contained. It is written for the lay reader, and incidents that occurred during the various expeditions give one an insight into the adventures and hardships that were incurred. It is not simply an account of plant exploration, for the narrator makes frequent diversions from the main topic in order to mention interviews with people famous in other realms of science and incidents of fundamental importance to the history of the world, such as the discovery of Röntgen rays or Glen Curtiss's flight in a heavier-than-air machine in July 1908.

The story is presented in a direct style and is lightened by touches of natural humour. There are occasional slips, as for example on p. 123, when the late Dr. J. B. Harrison is described as being the discoverer of sugar-cane seedlings. In Barbados and the West Indies generally, this honour has always been ascribed to the late John R. Bovell.

Dr. Fairchild is an expert with the camera, and the book is well illustrated with more than two hundred beautiful photographs covering the greater part of his journeyings.