

away from the partnership, Bewick had to write the text of Part 2 of the "Birds" himself. He did this of necessity and with many misgivings, and it is difficult to discover in the result any traces of the influence of Linnæus. Again, Hagberg's description of Clerck's work on Swedish spiders as a "lovely book whose pictures are an abiding source of joy" makes one wonder whether he is acquainted with those classic illustrated texts of zoological literature to which alone such an encomium can reasonably be applied.

The lack of an index is to be regretted.

F. J. COLE

## THE IRIS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

### The Iris and its Culture

By Jean Stevens. Pp. 168+20 plates. (Melbourne and Sydney: Lothian Publishing Co. Pty., Ltd., n.d.) 45s.

IN Britain lovers of the iris are generously provided with works of reference. Apart from W. R. Dykes's large monographic study of the genus, still the standard work and long likely to remain so, there are his shorter works and numerous papers on the culture and breeding of these plants, and, as recently as 1950, Mr. N. Leslie Cave's very informative and practical handbook. The needs of American iris growers in large measure have been met by the American Iris Society's publication in 1947 of a comprehensive treatise, "The Iris, an Ideal Hardy Perennial", and by the late Prof. Sydney Mitchell's "Iris for Every Garden".

No such works have been available for growers of the iris in the southern hemisphere, where, because seasons and conditions, and consequently horticultural practice are so different, growers cannot use profitably much of the information contained in books concerned with culture in the northern hemisphere. Thus an authoritative statement, especially a cultural statement, on this genus as it is grown in New Zealand and Australia has long been desirable and at last has been made by Mrs. Jean Stevens, the federal president of the Australian and New Zealand Iris Society and the first president of the New Zealand Iris Society, and who for more than twenty years has been a successful cultivator of the numerous species of this genus, and a noted breeder with an international reputation of the more numerous garden hybrids, especially the tall bearded irises.

"The Iris and its Culture", therefore, is the first handbook on irises to be written for gardeners in New Zealand and Australia, and as such it is eminently suited to its purpose. One half of the book is devoted to a classification of the genus and to a description of the various species from a horticultural point of view. In a country such as New Zealand where, apart from privately owned copies, Dykes's monograph apparently is available only in the County Library Service in the South Island, specific descriptions of some kind obviously are essential. These descriptions, however, are no mere rehashes of those of Dykes, but are written from personal observation and experience, for the author has grown and flowered almost all the species discussed. As a result of the information of intense practical value which is woven into this enumeration of the species in their various groups, readers will not be tired and irritated (so often the reaction of

the practical gardener to species descriptions) by this section of the book.

The rest of the book—the first seventy-five pages—in the main is concerned with the history, breeding and cultivation of the hybrid bearded irises which have been bred for more than a century, have been popular with many growers for some twenty to twenty-five years and which, due to their vast improvement in colour, form and substance, during the past ten years or so have rushed meteorically to the forefront of gardening in both hemispheres. Because most of the emphasis on iris growing to-day is on the bearded irises, and because Mrs. Stevens can speak authoritatively (she is recognized as one of the foremost breeders of bearded irises in the world, and with her irises Pinnacle and Summit has raised the first white and yellow bicolors—white standards and yellow falls), one does not feel that to devote one half of the book to this group of plants is to give them much greater prominence than their position in the genus merits. The reviewer does feel, however, that the author could have elaborated her two chapters on the breeding of the bearded irises to the extent of introducing and explaining such terms as diploid, tetraploid and polyploid. By so doing, the true significance of the year 1900 in the evolution of the tall bearded iris could have been made plain. All hybrid bearded irises raised up to 1900 were diploids, and their parents were the tall-stemmed blue-violet flowered *Iris pallida* from Dalmatia and the short-stemmed yellow flowered *I. variegata* of the Balkans, and some of their natural hybrids such as *I. squalens*, *I. neglecta*, *I. plicata*, *I. amæna*, etc. In 1900, the Asiatic species *I. cypriana*, *I. trojana* and *I. mesopotamica*, all large-flowered and tall-growing, and all of them tetraploids, were introduced into Britain and were used more and more in breeding. As a result, by 1915, 33 per cent of the hybrids in Britain were tetraploids; by 1920, 45 per cent were tetraploids; by 1930, 75 per cent were tetraploids; and by 1940 there was scarcely a diploid tall bearded iris.

As for the illustrations of Mrs. Stevens's book, only some of the sixteen monochrome plates are good, and even though the best of them give some indication of the colour patterns of the flowers, none gives any idea of the actual colours or of the flower texture. More colour plates of the calibre of the frontispiece illustrating many of the colour forms of *I. inominata* or of *I. gracilipes* would have enhanced the book greatly—though perhaps at the same time have increased considerably the published price, which even at 45s. those in Britain who are interested in the genus are likely to regard as somewhat prohibitive.

H. R. FLETCHER

## ANTHROPOLOGY DURING THE PAST CENTURY

### A Hundred Years of Anthropology

By T. K. Penniman; with Contributions by Beatrice Blackwood and Dr. J. S. Weiner. (The Hundred Years Series.) Second edition, revised. Pp. 512. (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd., 1952.) 30s. net.

THIS work is up to p. 344 a reproduction of an earlier work which was first published in 1935. The publisher's claim printed on the dust-cover that it reappears revised is not confirmed by the author, who speaks of photographic reproduction with minor emendations. There remain to review here its final