

Civil servants at their daily work as Mr. Critchley did. The size and complexity of the Service have in no way hindered a clear exposition of the purposes and functions of the departments, but what has gone before has diverted Mr. Monck from the popular exposition that is our primary need to-day and the first justification for a new book on the Civil Service.

It is perhaps too much to expect one who was chairman of a group which five years ago produced for the Fabian Society a report on the reform of the higher Civil Service to refrain from discussing proposals for reform, but popular exposition and serious discussion of reform are ill consorts. Nevertheless, the book would have been more likely to achieve its declared purpose had the author practised such self-denial and eschewed the suggestions for reform which are made especially in his introduction but which are scattered through the first four parts. His sensible suggestions deserve more space than could be given, but Mr. Monck also brings in some questions like that of public ownership which are less relevant to the exposition of the nature of the Civil Service and how it works. The task of popular exposition must therefore be judged as an undertaking still to be accomplished.

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## THE TREES OF UGANDA

The Indigenous Trees of the Uganda Protectorate  
By Dr. William J. Eggeling. Revised and enlarged  
by Ivan R. Dale. (Published by authority of the  
Government of the Uganda Protectorate.) Pp. xxx+  
491+76 plates. (Entebbe: Government Printer;  
London: Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1952.)  
42s. net.

THE first edition of this work, published in 1940, was designed to be of service both to the botanist and the layman. Mr. Ivan R. Dale, who has prepared the revised and enlarged second edition, states that he has striven wherever possible to ease the difficulties of the layman, especially of field workers in government departments and sawmills. The book is very much more attractively produced than the first edition and is a credit to both printer and publisher. It is enhanced by the addition of coloured plates by 'Joy' (Mrs. Adamson), of twenty-one line-drawings previously published by the Imperial Forestry Institute, and of some more excellent photographs by Dr. W. J. Eggeling.

The appearance of this second edition is evidence of the very real need that exists in tropical countries for simple handbooks which will enable the field worker, without a specialized knowledge of taxonomy, to identify the trees he is likely to meet within his country. A handbook such as this can be made much simpler than a Flora by dealing only with the trees of one particular territory. Some authors have tried to simplify similar books by describing only the trees they regard as the commonest. This is most unsatisfactory, as the field worker is frequently thwarted or misled when the tree he is trying to identify is not in the handbook. Dr. Eggeling has, however, wisely used the term 'tree' in a wide sense and deals with all the trees recorded from Uganda, including those which appear to be rare or which are still unnamed. Rather more than seven hundred species are described; this figure conveys some idea of the immense botanical problem which confronts the forester in tropical countries.

The descriptions of the species on the whole are very good and include characters of bark and 'slash'. Such characters are of great value in tropical rain-forest where the leafy shoots and flowers of the timber trees are usually a hundred feet or more above one's head. At this time, when Floras are being prepared for tropical East Africa, for the Belgian Congo and for Angola, and the Flora of West Tropical Africa is being revised, many botanists, as well as field workers, will find these field descriptions most useful.

There is great scope in a work such as this for really vivid and practical keys. It is therefore disappointing to find that so much of the material has been borrowed, sometimes uncritically, from other works. For example, in the key to the genera of Moraceæ, the umbrella tree (*Musanga*), which has large digitately lobed leaves unique among Uganda Moraceæ, can only be keyed out by the following characters: "stamens erect in bud", "ovule erect from the base of the ovary-cell", and "male flower with 1 stamen". Forest officers are among the first to complain when such characters are used in Floras, and it is remarkable that they should be used unnecessarily in a book which has been written, used and revised by the forest officers themselves. As another example of the unsatisfactory borrowed keys one may cite *Capparis*, which is keyed out correctly as having the sepals in two series, but the only species in the book has the sepals in a single series and should, in fact, be transferred to another genus.

The descriptions of the families which have been added by Mr. Dale are sometimes useful, but too often will, one feels, confuse the field worker who is interested only in Uganda trees; if he has a wider interest there are other works to turn to. The fruit of the Apocynaceæ is, for example, described as "usually a pair of large follicles, but occasionally a berry"; then follows the description of fifteen species, twelve of which have berries (sometimes incorrectly referred to as "drupes" in this book). In the Violaceæ, a description of the only arborescent genus in Uganda—*Rinorea*—would have been more helpful than a description of the family.

Several corrections in nomenclature and taxonomy which have been made recently by botanists have been adopted in the new edition; but others have been overlooked. Some valuable original work has been contributed by H. C. Dawkins and G. Leggat, of the Uganda Forest Department, and by Dr. G. Cufodontis.

In this book the information which is derived from the author's and revisers' personal acquaintance with the trees they describe is of real value; but the material obtained from other sources is too often inapplicable to Uganda trees, and the book is consequently marred by a number of avoidable mistakes.

One cannot help feeling that the nomenclature, taxonomy and, above all, the keys of this edition would have been greatly improved if the reviser could have undertaken his work in one of the large British herbaria. It is time Colonial Governments realized that their botanists could serve them far more efficiently if they were allowed to spend at least one-third of their working-time at Kew or the British Museum, in the herbaria and libraries of which the British Commonwealth possesses a unique and incredibly rich heritage. As it is, the Colonial botanist must make the unsatisfactory choice between hurried visits and sacrificing a large portion of his leave.

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