

Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Züchtungsforschung in Müncheberg, east of Berlin in September 1928. At the end of the war in 1945 a part of the institute under Professor W. Rudorf found a home at Voldagsen near Hanover. In October 1955 this unit, now a Max Planck Institut, was moved to a more spacious site at Vogelsang, close to Cologne, which now serves as headquarters for the organisation whose work is here sketched by the chief investigators.

The first half of the book deals with fundamental studies on genetics, nuclear in *Antirrhinum* and cytoplasmic in *Epilobium*, on chemical and developmental physiology, and on disease-resistance. The second half deals with past, present, and future work on the fourteen main groups of crop plants. Naturally the account is condensed and the second half is concerned with a summary of details. The treatment crop by crop, the references to past problems of administration, and the omission of ideas from outside the organisation, all contribute to prevent any broad or deep view being reached. The reader meets a further difficulty in the illustrations. About 150 photographs give some idea of the scope and achievements of German crop plant breeding. But there is a lack of exact reference to them in the text or in the legends.

Some 400 references to German papers provide a valuable bibliography for plant breeders. C. D. DARLINGTON.

OLD AND NEW BOOKS DEALING WITH GENERAL PLANT BREEDING. By H. de Haan. Reprinted from *Euphytica*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 197-221. July 1958. Wageningen.

This *catalogue raisonné* of general works on plant breeding is classified under twelve languages and will be widely useful. It is illustrated with photographs of notable authors. Clearly it could be enlarged greatly and the compiler's request for additions is most appropriate. C. D. D.

GENETICAL RESEARCH. Vol. 1, Part 1, 172 pp. Feb. 1960. Cambridge University Press. 40s.

We welcome the appearance of a new periodical of *Genetical Research*. The formation, lay-out and typography follow, with some improvements of detail, those of the *Journal of Genetics* which was published (from 1910 to 1958) by the Cambridge Press. One of the improvements is that it will appear in annual volumes of three parts. The twelve papers of the first number deal with mice (five papers) and rabbits, *Drosophila* and *Paramecium*, *Aspergillus* and *Coprinus*. The longer papers have summaries of varying style. Instructions given to contributors are detailed and well-considered. Too well-considered, perhaps, for experience shows that contributors are impatient readers. Let us hope they will learn better and we shall all profit thereby. C. D. D.

RUSSIAN REVIEW OF BIOLOGY. Vol. 48, No. 1. Pp. 110. Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. January 1960. 30s. or \$5.

Here we have the first part of the English version of the Russian *Review of Biology*, with seven articles. Three concern enzyme chemistry, two immunology, and two are more general statements. One of these is an account