

Drugs and Foods from Little-Known Plants. Notes in Harvard University Herbaria, by SIRI VON REIS ALTSCHUL, Foreword by RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES. Published by Harvard University Press, 1973. xii + 366 pp. Price \$10.

THIS book is a catalogue of over 5000 species of angiosperms taken from the Herbarium specimens, deposited in the combined collections of The Arnold Arboretum and The Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, which contain field notes indicating their potential use for drugs or as foodstuffs. Dr. Altschul has covered all the families except the orchids and lower plants, but has eliminated from her catalogue those species which are included in Uphof's well known *Dictionary of Economic Plants*. The catalogue is very well indexed with regard to families and genera, and enhanced by the medical index prepared by Professor Hershenson, which lists the various entries under their medicinal and other uses. The resulting compilation must be of interest to all phytochemists, for it gives a lead to hitherto uninvestigated genera and species which may well be worthy of phytochemical and pharmacological investigation. In some cases the information given is very full and informative, but there are a few entries where the only data is a single word, often in the native language of the area from which it was collected and, therefore, of little use. All in all, however, we must congratulate Dr. Altschul on this well-produced compilation, which should certainly find its way into the libraries of all those interested in pharmacology, ethno-botany and phytochemistry.

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