

BOOK NOTICES

A Dictionary of Botany: by R. JOHN LITTLE and C. EUGENE JONES. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, 1980. 400 pp. £13.90.

If when reading a botanical research paper you have been flooded by excipulum, excurrent, exindusiate or exoscopic, this will be a useful book to have. In a fairly painless fashion, this dictionary provides nearly 5500 brief definitions for those botanical terms currently most widely used. The text is aided in a few places by some rather inelegant anatomical or other illustrative figures. A number of biochemical terms are included but the definitions are at a pretty elementary level. Clearly intended for a rather general audience, this dictionary should, nevertheless, be a helpful guide to any scientist who has missed out on a formal botanical upbringing.

Systematik des Pflanzenreichs: by D. FROHNE and U. JENSEN. 2nd edn, Fischer, Stuttgart, 1979. 308 pp. Price not known.

The subtitle to this book 'unter besonderer Berücksichtigung chemischer Merkmale und pflanzlicher

Drogen' gives the clue to the main purpose of this book, which is to provide an account for pharmacy students of the systematic distribution in plants of secondary constituents, with some emphasis on plant drugs. In fact, this book is very much a mini-mini-version of Hegnauer's *Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen* and like Hegnauer, it is in German. It is unfortunate that even though it has now advanced to a second edition, it has not yet proved possible to have it translated since I am sure it would command a wide audience in English-speaking countries. As it is, the language barrier is not really a serious one, since the text is extensively illustrated with formulae, diagrams and figures and even those with only a smattering of German should be able to find their way about this valuable course book. Its particular success is in the juxtaposition of anatomy, morphology and chemistry family by family throughout the plant kingdom and it should be a useful adjunct to any university course on plant systematics or chemotaxonomy.

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