

ance of the first edition of *Basic Horticulture*. The preface remains essentially the same as in the first edition. It is undated and states no reason for the revision. However, upon even a casual examination of its contents, it becomes apparent that the new edition brings us up to date by presenting the newer knowledge of hormones and growth regulators, and weeds and their control, which are topics of much current horticultural interest. Two new chapters dealing with these subjects have been added. In addition, suggested laboratory exercises have been appended, which will greatly enhance the value of the book. The book contains some 25 more pages than the former edition, yet it is smaller, more compact, and in general, a more attractive book.

The author continues to follow the same dynamic approach as in the former edition, that is, the acquaintance of the student with horticultural plants—their structure, physiology and environmental reactions (culture), rather than with an encyclopedic treatment of the numerous varieties of fruits, flowers and ornamentals.

In addition to being a leading text for general courses in horticulture, for which it was primarily intended, *Basic Horticulture* might well be considered as a text or reference for general botany courses with the economic or horticultural slant, and as reference material for courses in plant physiology and high school courses in biology. Due to the readability of the book, it is recommended to the layman for a practical scientific treatment of horticultural plants and their culture for profit and pleasure.

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PRESCOTT, G. W. *Algae of the Western Great Lakes Area*. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bulletin 31, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. 946 pp. illus. 1951. \$10.50.

This book represents an outstanding contribution to the study of fresh water algae. While the title indicates a comparatively small study area, it actually includes many species outside. Over 1000 algae are de-

scribed. The introduction covers the geographical features of algae distribution including soil and lake types and the relationships of phytoplankton to lake productivity. Morphological characters are well illustrated. In addition to the systematic account there is a good analytical key to the genera. The various species are illustrated by 136 plates. There is an adequate glossary. Perhaps most outstanding is the bibliography which in itself is of considerable value.

While this is a specialized book and of most value to the student and teacher of fresh water algae or limnology, or to water and sanitary engineers, it might well find its place on the library shelf for the high school biology teacher who wishes the most complete references for those rare but ever curious students.

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EATON, THEODORE H., JR. *Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates*. Harper and Brothers, Publishers, New York. viii + 326 pp. illus. 1951. \$4.00.

Mr. Eaton has written this text for a one-semester course in comparative anatomy. The book is thorough, although concise, and contains enough material for an introductory course. There are twelve chapters, with the first entitled "The Kinds of Chordates." This chapter contains material on the relationships among the vertebrate groups as shown by their structural and functional evolution and more specifically—the names, appearance, and the ways of life of the animals concerned. The second chapter is about development of chordates in general with specific detail of the embryology of the frog. The following nine chapters deal with the various body systems including: Integument; Skeleton; Muscles; Digestive and Respiratory Systems, and Coelom; Circulatory; Urinary and Genital; Sense Organs; and Nervous System. Chapter twelve, "Panorama," is divided into three sections: first, an historical review of the men who have contributed to the rise of comparative anatomy; second, some of the theories as to the origin of the vertebrates and a brief dis-