distribution of each species. These maps are very useful in helping to eliminate species that could key out the same, but with a different geographic distribution. The book is well illustrated.

This book would provide excellent background information in a high school biology class, a college course in lichens, or as a field guide. For the beginner it would be well to follow the author's advice: Seek expert counsel in making identifications.

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PHOTOSYNTHESIS, by Eugene Rabinowitch and Govindjee. 1969. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 273 pp. $8.95 hardbound, $5.95 softbound.

The book is a comprehensive study of the photosynthetic process. The intent is to provide an introduction to the field of photosynthesis to the college student, the general reader, and the advanced secondary student. There is no question of its value to the scientifically oriented college student, but the level of presentation in the areas of mathematics and chemistry would act as a definite deterrent to all but the very well-prepared general reader or secondary student. It should be noted, however, that the author has presented the entire picture with such care and such inspired use of graphic materials that the well-prepared general reader should be able to gain a comprehensive picture of the photosynthetic process.

The book begins with a brief but enlightening history of the discoveries that led to the development of the modern theories of photosynthetic activity. This is followed by a clearly presented discussion of energy-producing systems and their relationship to the evolution of photosynthesis. These, in turn, are tied in with the potential and actual use of solar energy by earth organisms.

From this point the authors systematically and with great care lead the reader through the areas of kinetics, photochemical behavior, morphology, and specialized areas of biochemical and biophysical processes.

In all cases except fig. 2.2, the authors have used graphic presentation to enhance understanding, and in many cases these figures will help the lay reader to circumvent the technical presentation without undue loss of understanding.

Two very important features that would make this book a valuable addition to a secondary library collection are the detailed presentation, which would encourage and direct further investigation by young researchers, and the exceptional way the subject demonstrates the interrelated aspects of physical, chemical, and biological science.

Charles H. Clay
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THE PLANT HUNTERS, by Tyler Whittle. 1970. Chilton Book Co., Philadelphia. 272 pp. $8.95.

The book, in the words of the author, is "an examination of collecting, with an account of the careers and methods of a number of those who have searched the world for wild plants." The examination of collecting is distributed among three appendices: "Plant Distribution," "Plant Names," and "Plant Collecting"—altogether only 18 pages long. The first 249 pages are the "accounts of the careers and methods."

Do not be misled: this is not a book about plants. Whittle resorts to name-dropping (*Taraktogenos kurzii* and *Sciadopitys verticillate*), but his interest is in the collectors, not in the plants themselves. Anyone who has studied a history of biology or botany will be disappointed with the superficial gossip about some of the prominent figures of botany, like Linnaeus (whose wife is described: "The sweet, young girl turned almost overnight into a dragon.") and David Douglas ("Probably the only thing which prevented this bumptious delinquent from developing into a thug was his consuming passion for natural history."). Better biographic books and articles are available to those who have any interest in the eminent botanists.

Nonetheless, the field botanist is the pioneer of the discipline. Taxonomy, floristics, phytogeography, ecology, pharmacognosy—so many of the specialties of botany begin with the field worker, the collector, whose ability to make a systematic and representative collection of a flora in any location either supports or hinders the work of those laboratory and herbarium botanists who must rely on him. Insofar as Whittle has made an orderly biography of the big and the little men whose lives and works have contributed so much to plant science, *The Plant Hunters* is raised above the level of a string of anecdotes. Whittle, although a novelist and young people's author, shows the "consuming passion" which kept the plant hunters hunting in the most adverse environments on earth. In vignetting the little man in the field, Whittle is making an important contribution to the history of biology: he is giving credit where credit is due.

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HOW TO KNOW THE AQUATIC PLANTS, by G. W. Prescott. 1969. Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa. 171 pp. $2.50.

This key to the aquatic plants will certainly find a place on the shelves of many a biology teacher, as have so many publications of this series. It is