

Reviews and Abstracts

A Manual of Plant Names. 1969. By C. C. Plawden. Philosophical Library. 260 pages. \$10.00.

This is basically a reference book, the heart of which consists of three alphabetized lists of names of useful plants. The first is a list of generic names, the second—specific, and the third—common names. The derivations and meanings of the generic and specific names are given. In the index of common names, each plant is identified by its genus and/or species.

In addition to the plant lists, the author has included a very useful vocabulary of botanical terms, a section on leaves with excellent line drawings illustrating the many variations in leaf form, and a shorter section dealing with the various flowers forms and inflorescences.

The final chapter has to do with plant classification in general, and includes the common plant family names and genera. However, no attempt was made to help in identifying plant families or genera. Instead, references are cited for identification purposes.

Although directed mainly toward the serious gardener, this plant manual could prove useful to students and horticulturists as well.

—G. M. Kessler

The Oxford Book of Food Plants. 1969.

By S. G. Harrison, G. B. Masefield and Michael Wallis. Oxford University Press. 206 pages. \$11.00.

Anyone with a special interest in food plants will find this book a treasure of information and illustrations. From it one can quickly determine where almost every food plant originated, where it is commonly grown, what it looks like, its botanical classification, scientific name, the important

types, varieties in some cases, and ways in which they are used as food.

An outstanding feature of this book is its fine illustrations. Instead of the usual photographic plates, one finds many beautifully reproduced paintings of the whole plant and the parts that are usually eaten. Many of the plates were painted from actual specimens, some of which were grown specifically for this purpose. The artist, B. E. Nicholson, is to be commended for the great care she took to represent each plant as accurately as possible.

The book concludes with brief but interesting presentations which tell of the early domestication of food plants by man, of how food crops were spread throughout the world, and a little about the uses of food plants and their nutritional value.

The collection of any book lover would be enriched by the addition of this one.

—G. M. Kessler

Characteristics of Delicious Apple

Strains and Selections. 1969. By R. B. Tukey and J. K. Ballard. Wash. State Univ. E.M. 3124.

The authors have attempted to lessen the confusion arising from the introduction of scores of new strains of the Delicious apple in the past twenty years. To do so, they have classified the many strains on the basis of bearing habit (standard vs. spur-type), fruit skin color, earliness and variability of coloring. Since so many of the strains are very similar in color, a major part of the classification system developed by the authors consists of various categories of color. These are: color pattern, intensity of red pigment, intensity of striping, and shade of color.

—G. M. Kessler