

The journal is now publishing a series of very beautiful coloured plates of local birds. In the first number there was only one of these plates, but now each number contains two or three. The birds represented are usually species which are also found in Bangkok, though perhaps of different subspecies. The Hong Kong Government has made a grant towards the cost of publishing these plates, and this has since been augmented by gifts from private individuals. Besides the plates, each number is well provided with line and half-tone illustrations.

The subscription to this journal, only \$5 per annum, is extraordinarily low for such a publication; thanks no doubt to the Government grant, and the generosity of private individuals.

A. K.

Exploring for plants. By David Fairchild. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1930. 21 shillings.

This is a delightful semi-popular book by the Special Agricultural Explorer in the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction of the United States, and is an account of travels extending for three years, searching for plants suitable for introduction into the author's country, for agricultural, economic, or horticultural purposes. Every page overflows with infectious enthusiasm, but it is a hectic, breathless story. We are hurried through Europe, Asia and Africa, and all are made to yield a rich haul. The general narrative is interesting and intimate, and we become acquainted with a number of the eminent personalities of the botanical and horticultural world. The book will make a general appeal, either as a story of travels with a motive, or as a description of a botanical tour.

The subject, of course, is of great importance from the economic standpoint, and it is apparent how much remains to be done even in countries with a known and described flora.

The portions of particular interest to us deal with Ceylon, Sumatra and Java, and perhaps from these chapters an enthusiasm may be acquired for unpopular fruits and odoriferous markets. A certain amount of travelling was done in tropical forests, generally under adverse circumstances due to lack of preparations, which must have militated against success.

Forest destruction and plant introduction will increase: in time indigenous floras will be destroyed, and it behoves everyone to see what they can of vegetation under natural conditions before it is too late.

A plea may be made against foreign plant introduction with regard to Bangkok gardens, where the custom has been followed of cultivating only foreign plants, to the exclusion of the many ornamental species which are indigenous. Perhaps the popularity of

Afgekia sericea and *Jasminum rex* will stimulate the desire for a due appreciation of the flora of Siam.

A. M.

Florae Siamensis Enumeratio. A list of the Plants known from Siam with Records of their occurrence. By W. G. Craib. Volume I, Part 4. Bangkok, 1931

The fourth part of Volume I of this work has now appeared. This part completes the first volume, and contains a title page and generic index. It deals with the families Rosaceae to Cornaceae, in the Bentham and Hooker arrangement. The number of species listed in the above families is 623, of which 159, or about 25 %, are, so far, known only from Siam. The largest family dealt with is Melastomaceae, with 113 species, then come Myrtaceae with 94 species, Rosaceae and Cucurbitaceae with 52 each and Combretaceae with 51. Of the individual genera, *Eugenia*, with 80 species, is by far the largest, after it come *Begonia* with 46 species, *Memecylon* with 29, *Sonerila* with 23, *Combretum* with 21 and *Terminalia* with 20.

As usual, the synonymy is very fully given, with ample references to works dealing with the flora of the eastern tropics, as well as to original sources. These references alone must have entailed an enormous amount of work. Very useful notes are supplied for critical species. Though no new species is described in the work, a number of new varieties are made and their distinguishing features given.

A number of local names are included, but it will be difficult to make full use of these till an index of them is published.

A. K.

Contributions to the Flora of Siam. Additamenta XXIX, XXX and XXXI. Kew Bull. Misc. Inform. 1930, pp. 405-427, 1931, pp. 206-221 and 275-280.

In the 29th Additamentum of this series, 36 new species are described. These species belong to the following genera:—*Casearia* (3), *Adenia* (3), *Alsomitra* (2), *Begonia* (15), *Peucedanum* (1), *Heracleium* (1), *Schefflera* (3), *Brassaiopsis* (1), *Arthrophyllum* (3), *Trevesia* (2), *Scheffleropsis* (1), and *Alangium* (1). All of these are included in Part 4 of the Enumeratio, reviewed above. It is interesting to note that several of the new species of *Begonia* were described from living plants, which Professor Craib raised from seed sent from Siam. *Scheffleropsis* is a genus of araliaceous plants, of which only one species was known hitherto. Professor Craib has now added another, *Scheffleropsis subintegra*, a small tree from Kao Sung in Trang Province.

The 30th list contains the description of 26 new species, all except three of which belong to the family Rubiaceae. The following are the genera to which these species belong:—*Gilibertia* (1),