

ARNOLDIA REVIEWS

The Terrace Gardener's Handbook. Linda Yang. New York: Doubleday and Co. 283 pages, illustrated. \$8.95.

Gardening Off the Ground. Art C. Drysdale. Canada: J. M. Dent and Sons Ltd., 125 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$3.95.

Both of these books are written for the increasing numbers of individuals who would like to garden but are limited to the small spaces afforded by balconies, terraces or rooftops.

Linda Yang offers her personal experiences as a professional architect and an avid terrace gardener in New York City to discuss basic plant requirements and garden design. More important, however, are her observations on situations unique to terrace or rooftop gardening; things such as support strength of balconies and roofs, problems with high winds and falling objects, winter protection, and suitable plant material and containers. The use of woody ornamental trees and shrubs is recommended to provide year-round interest and form in these types of gardens.

Gardening Off the Ground gives similar but less detailed advice and cautions, and places more emphasis on flowering annuals and vegetables. The author writes from experience with plant material in Toronto, Canada which should be a source of encouragement to those inhabitants of the northern U.S. who are doubtful about the success of growing woody plant material outdoors in containers.

JAMES A. BURROWS

Flora of Okinawa and the Southern Ryukyu Islands. Egbert H. Walker. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1159 pages, 209 black and white illustrations. \$36.75.

Okinawa and the Ryukyu Islands are familiar to those who lived during World War II as the islands to the south of the archipelago of Japan. Egbert Walker is the author with the late Dr. E. D. Merrill of the *Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany* and sole author of the supplement. The present massive volume of 1159 pages (8" \times 10 3/4") is the result of eleven years of work converting a check list to an excellent flora. It is not a tourist volume but rather a major contribution to the taxonomists and plant geographers studying the flora of Asia. The inclusion of cultivated plants, the indication of introduced weeds, the detailed synonymy with complete references and the high quality of the descriptions and the keys make this a volume certain to become a classic in its field.

RICHARD A. HOWARD



1978. "Arnoldia Reviews." *Arnoldia* 38(3), 116–116.

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