

combine the artificial and natural methods of classification. The analysis of the Linnæan classes and orders, with the synopsis of the genera at the commencement of the work, render it valuable for beginners.

In the present edition several important additions have been made. There is an excellent analysis of the natural orders of British plants, and there is also an index of popular English names. Some of the more difficult genera, as *Rubus* and *Hieracium*, have been carefully revised. The species which are doubtfully native have been noticed, and all the recent additions to the Flora have been introduced. Many of these additions have already been described by Mr. Babington in the 'Supplement to English Botany,' a work which is now published regularly by Mr. Sowerby, and which well deserves the support of all British botanists.

We have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Babington's 'Manual' as the best guide to the student of practical botany in this country.

The Elements of Botany, Structural and Physiological. By JOHN LINDLEY, Ph.D., F.R.S. &c. 5th edit. 8vo, pp. 238. London, Bradbury and Evans.

Dr. Lindley led the way in this country in the publication of elementary works on botany, embracing a *philosophical* view of the science. His works have long and deservedly held the first place in our universities and schools. We have now a fifth edition of his 'Outline of the First Principles of Botany.' "The author has taken advantage of the opportunity thus afforded him of bringing the work completely up to the present state of botanical knowledge, without however interfering with its original plan, by the introduction of doubtful or merely speculative matter, or of questions which do not interest a student. It was in the outset a book for learners; its purpose was to state plainly and concisely the great facts of the science, and to separate them from the ulterior questions to which they lead; and however much the work may have become extended by the addition of explanatory notes, the latter have never been permitted to appear in a form likely to divert attention from the main points. On the contrary, they have been printed in a different type, which renders them immediately distinguishable, and enables the reader to go through the principal propositions without, in the first instance, occupying his thoughts with their detailed explanation."

It is an admirable synopsis of the important principles of the science, and it is illustrated with excellent woodcuts. The addition of a glossary of technical terms, arranged alphabetically, enhances its value much, and is a great boon to the student. This edition differs from previous ones in not giving an account of the natural systems, nor a detailed description of the natural orders. For these the learner is referred to the author's 'School Botany' and his 'Vegetable Kingdom.' For one who wishes to have a short and comprehensive view of the great facts of the science of botany as regards structure,

physiology and classification, we look upon this edition of the *Elements*, combined with *School Botany*, as among the best works which he can procure.

Illustrations of British Mycology. By Mrs. T. I. HUSSEY.
Reeve, Brothers. 4to. Parts 1 & 2.

There is perhaps no country in which so little use is made of the various esculent fungi which abound everywhere in early autumn, as Great Britain. There is no doubt that we have some fifty or sixty species which would afford wholesome and agreeable food, and yet scarcely more than a tenth of this number are ever admitted to our tables. This perhaps is in some measure owing to the circumstance that no British work on esculent fungi, as far as we are aware of, has ever appeared, except the little treatise entitled the 'Mushroom and Champignon' illustrated, which is confined to a very few species. This desideratum is now supplied by the more general work of Dr. Badham, and by the 'Illustrations of British Mycology' now in progress, which bids fair to be one of the most important that has ever appeared on useful and noxious fungi. The illustrations are preceded by a general sketch of fungi founded on the concluding volume of the 'English Flora.' Since its publication the real structure of the hymenium has been ascertained, and consequently some improvements and alterations are requisite; a sketch of these has been given by the author of that volume in Dr. Lindley's 'Vegetable Kingdom,' and since its publication a long article has appeared on the subject in Orbigny's 'Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle' from the pen of M. Lévillé, agreeing in all essential points with Mr. Berkeley's arrangement, and this has been applied by Dr. Mougeot to an extensive series of fungi published in the statistical account of the Department des Vosges. It has been objected to both, perhaps with some justice, that they are founded solely on the fructification, without paying sufficient attention to morphology; it is however certain that the real affinities of the genera are more truly indicated than in any former arrangement, and we shall be rejoiced if the forthcoming morphological arrangement by Professor Fries in the 'Summa Vegetabilium Scandinaviæ' remedies acknowledged defects without creating new difficulties. We do not blame Mrs. Hussey therefore for adopting the arrangement of the 'English Flora' in preference to that in the 'Vegetable Kingdom,' in which indeed there are some manifest errors, her object being to refer students to the most readily available source of information.

Some excellent observations follow on collecting and examining fungi, which will be read with interest even by practised students; and the same may be said of the general accounts of the species illustrated, in which there is always something worth notice, either from its intrinsic value, or from being placed in a novel point of view. It is not indeed to be expected as regards a subject of such immense extent, and requiring access to a multitude of rare and expensive books, in various languages, that in a work whose merits rest



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