

The book consists primarily of 29 coloured reproductions of paintings by Bernard and Harriet Pertchik. The subjects chosen are all cultivated trees of the Caribbean area (chiefly the West Indies, the Guianas, and Venezuela). The task of choosing which species to include must have been difficult; there are other species one would like to have seen so superbly illustrated, for example *Erythrina crista-galli*. But many of the best known trees are included along with some that are usually seen only in botanic gardens or on large estates. The quality of the paintings is outstanding. There is an almost photographic reproduction of detail and yet each plate is most satisfying artistically. The six-colour process used in printing has resulted in very accurate portrayal of colour, notable especially in the flowers of the cannon-ball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) and in the blue-violet flowers of the fern tree (*Jacaranda filicifolia*).

About two pages of text accompany each plate. This includes a brief account of the folk-lore and legends that have grown up around each tree, a description of the chief characteristics of the tree, and notes on its uses, habitat and distribution. Botanists and plantmen of the New York Botanical Garden and of some of the Caribbean countries have assisted in providing information for the text and the artwork. The volume concludes with a bibliography and a glossary of the technical terms used.

Flowering trees of the Caribbean is not intended as a botanical text though it contains much useful and accurate information. It is not the sort of book you carry with you for quick identification of unfamiliar trees but it is a volume that will help the reader relive his visual memories of brilliant flowering trees of the tropics.—HAROLD A. SENN.

**A New Flora of the Lake Erie Islands:** *The Flora of the Erie Islands; an Annotated List of the Vascular Plants*, by Earl L. Core, Ohio State University, Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, Contribution no. 9, VIII + 106 pages, 43 illustrations. 1948.

This is a most welcome and useful addition to the rapidly growing series of local Floras covering in a detailed manner limited areas of Canadian territory. Actually the present publication covers the 21 islands of Lake Erie, 9 of which, including Pelee Island, are Canadian territory. Under each entity recognized are listed the island or islands where it is known to occur. Thus it is possible

to extract from this book a list of the known flora of each one of the 21 islands. The list itself is preceded by 40 pages of text giving a description of each island and a good ecological description of the major associations and more important habitats to be found in the archipelago, with shorter chapters on the history, geology, soils and climate of the area. Some 43 illustrations, mostly photographs, enliven the text and actually render it much more intelligible.

Under most entities also appears a brief statement of the habitat where each species grows. This is a very useful and valuable feature of the Flora. The total number of entities reported is stated as being 818, but their author has not actually seen all of them and quite a number of them are included on the basis of previous mentions in the botanical literature. There are no keys or descriptions.

The area concerned has long been the subject of floristic studies and the botanical literature on those islands is fairly considerable. The last major previous study was an Annotated List of Flowering Plants and Ferns of Point Pelee, Ont., and Neighbouring Districts, by R.C. Dodge, in 1914. The flora prepared by Core adds well over 100 species to the flora of the area, but there still remains quite a lot of exploration to be done before the list is anywhere near completion. As pointed out by Core himself, Pelee Island is larger than all the other islands together, but its known flora is less than that of the much smaller Kelley's Island and over 100 species less than the flora of the still smaller South Bass (or Put in Bay) Island. This is due to the fact that for various reasons some of the islands have been subjected to much more intensive botanical exploration than others.

Core's flora has brought up to date the nomenclature of the flora of the area and this is invaluable as Dodge's list was becoming rather outdated. This book will undoubtedly prove very useful to people interested in the flora of the Lake Erie Islands, some of which represent the southernmost extension (lat. 42° 40') of Canadian territory. — BERNARD BOIVIN.

**American Wildlife and Plants.** By Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1951, Pp. IX, 1-500. \$10.25.

In the Preface to "American Wildlife and



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