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BOOK REVIEW

Strasburger's Textbook of Botany. — G. Fischer-Verlag, Stuttgart 1976. 877 pp., 64.— DM.

Beginning with 1894, the scientific public has got into its hands the many times reedited "four-man book" — the popular German „Lehrbuch der Botanik“ well-known as „Strasburger“. Up to now, the book has passed through thirty German editions, each of them being jointly embraced by students and those who wanted to revive their basic knowledge in particular fields of botany. In the past seven decades, the book has substantially changed as new authors have joined the team (founded by E. Strasburger, F. Noll, H. Schonek and A. F. W. Schimper) and the progress in botany has brought further information on the plant kingdom. In view of this, the book never "grew old" and retained a high up-to-date standard. In the latest form, it represents the collective work of thirteen authors which brought together in a single volume the comprehensive data dealing with plant morphology (Part one), physiology (Part two), systematics and evolution (Part three) and plant geography (Part four). The book thus includes the main aspects characterizing cytological, histological, anatomical and morphological structures of plants and their organs and the explanation of the general vital functions, such as the biochemical and physiological metabolism, growth and development, reproduction, adaptation processes, etc. The analysis of plant reactions and responses to environmental factors is well balanced with the description of plant habitus (systematics of lower and seed plants), plant world distributional patterns and history.

The edition of this new English translation (the first appeared in 1965) is to be highly appreciated as it once again introduces the book to a large number of readers, especially those who are not acquainted with German. The translators successfully get over the difficulties consisting in the absence of some English equivalents to German words and terms. They also brought the references up-to-date, especially by completing them with recent English works. The volume is well arranged and printed, excellently illustrated with 579 figures, numerous diagrams, tables and photographs and supplied with the comprehensive subject and plant index.

DANUŠE HODÁŇOVÁ (Praha)