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Figs. 2—5 at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEWS

HÖHNE, J., WILHELM, P. G.: ZWÖLF MONATE IM GARTEN. Planen-Pflanzen-Pflegen-Ernten. — Verlag Paul Parey, Berlin—Hamburg 1980. 374 pp. DM 38.00.

This book is an authoritative guide to the plant domain, the pride of our gardens and parks. It is also an experienced adviser of all those who wish to learn the art of growing decorative and utility plants, shrubs and trees, which would reward the gardener with an abundance of flowers and a high crop of fruits.

Practical advices concern a number of breeding procedures based on a sound knowledge of the optimum design and lay-out of a garden, of chemical and physical properties of soil, and of the requirements of individual plants on nutrients, light, water and temperature. Specific and varietal composition of plants, their vegetative and generative propagation, harvesting and storage of fruits, and other topics are discussed. The principles of fight with pests and weeds are given in great detail. The text is complemented by the description of principal technical aids and equipments needed to the maintenance of lawns, trimming of shrubs and trees, to sprays, etc.

A very sympathetic trait of the book is the specification of the requirements of plants on abiotic and biotic environmental factors for each month of the year. This will facilitate the preparatory work of a gardener, as a thorough consideration of physiological needs of plants in relation to their growth reduces the risk of neglecting an essential and timely step, to which an inexperienced grower is often exposed.

The book is richly illustrated with black-and-white and coloured photographs and supplemented with instructive diagrams and tables. The success of this book with readers is documented by the fact that it appears in 19th edition since 1958.

DANUŠE HODÁŠOVÁ (Praha)

MAGEE, P. N. (ed.): NITROSAMINES AND HUMAN CANCER. Banbury Report 12. — Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1982. 599 pp. US \$ 67.—; outside US \$ 80.40.

N-nitrosamines comprise a group of chemicals that are potent mutagens and/or carcinogens in most species tested, and although they occur minimally in nature, precursor amines and nitrites form nitrosamines in animals and plants. The 12th Banbury Conference, held in 1982, was planned to bring together experts engaged in the biochemistry, metabolism and genotoxic effects of nitrosamines that have been detected in some foods, beverages and in the atmosphere. The introductory session presents papers demonstrating evidence that human beings are susceptible to N-nitroso compounds. However, as stated in the afterword, none of the information presented at the Conference provides unequivocal evidence that the nitrosamines are involved in the causation of human cancer. Nevertheless, the data do suggest that the possibility of such an effect should not be excluded. The subsequent session present papers dealing with the comparative metabolism, alkylation reactions and analytical methods applied for the detection of nitrosamines in various media. The highest known concentrations of exogenous nitrosamines occur in the rubber and leather-tanning industries. As to non-occupational exposures, nitrosamines have been detected in tobacco smoke, foodstuffs, alcoholic beverages, in cosmetics etc. The session, which covers the environmental occurrence of nitroso compounds, also includes a group of papers on the action of N-nitrosocimetidine, originating by nitrosation of the drug cimetidine in the acid environment of human stomach. The concluding papers present data on the incidence of nitrites and amines in the human diet and the dose response relationship in nitrosamine carcinogenesis. As in all previous Banbury Reports, each session is accompanied by an informal discussion.

T. GICHNER (Praha)