Bell, K.R.: **Green Plants. Their Origin and Diversity**. - Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1992. 315 pp., paperbag UK £ 16.95.

Peter Bell is Professor Emeritus of Botany at the University of London. The book "Green Plants" is a totally revised edition of the earlier "Diversity of Green Plants" by P.R. Bell and C.L.F. Woodcock (3rd Edition, London 1983). It describes the latest information on principal features and interrelationships of algae, bryophytes and tracheophyts on the basis of evolutionary and morphological trends in the Plant Kingdom.

The textbook is divided into nine chapters. The introductory one outlines the general features of the Plant Kingdom, the structure of the photoautotrophic cell, evolutionary consequences of photosynthesis, mobility of plants, life cycles, reproduction and a rough classification of the chlorophyllous phototrophs. The following three chapters are dealing with algae, their general classification and characterization, and individually with algae containing chlorophylls *a* and *b*, and *a* and *c*. It follows the subkingdom *Bryophyta* (mosses and liverworts) and further four chapters on the subkingdom *Tracheophyta*: fossil types, ferns, gymnospermophytes and angiospermophytes including recent evolution and the main trends of evolution in the angiosperms. A glossary of terms in botany is added as well as suggestions for further reading and a subject index.

The book is not a classical textbook in taxonomy but the remarkable diversity of plant forms is shown on the hand of morphology and underlined by evolutionary aspects for the diverse groups in the plant kingdom. The book covers the wide range of botany from cellular structure to plant life cycles. Frequent illustrations of very good quality are the necessary preposition of a good textbook. The book will be helpful to students in high schools and colleges and to a broad spectrum of botanists.

I. TICHÁ (*Praha*)