



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Photographic Manual of Woody Landscape Plants.** Michael A. Dirr. 378 pp. illus. Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign, Illinois, 1978. \$14.60 (soft cover).

This book is a companion piece to Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, which was reviewed in *Economic Botany* 33(2). It attempts to fill a "long . . . evident" need in ornamental horticulture and landscape architecture "for a reference text which encompasses photographs of plant habit and ornamental characteristics." To this end, it presents black-and-white photographs—1,295 of them—of plants, including habit and, where appropriate, leaves, flowers, fruit, and bark; both summer and winter habit shots are included for a number of species. Truly a picture book this, the text is minimal, giving notes on description, soil preference, landscape value, faults, and hardiness zone.

The major criticism I have is that some of the photographs are so pale that they obfuscate rather than elucidate their subject. Aside from this, the book will serve its purpose well. I, for one, will keep it handy next to Dirr's *Manual*.

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**Food and Drugs in America.** Eiline Kingsley. 133 pp. illus. Energy Held Publications, Los Angeles, California, 1980. \$6.95.

The author, a teacher of health communication at the University of Southern California, offers in this little book a unique theory on the non-protein nitrogen effect of alkaloids on the citric acid cycle and how our social conceptions of presumably beneficial alkaloid effects have been restricted by paradigms about drugs.

Divided into 10 chapters, the material on the American diet is developed step by step: (1) "Origins of American Consumption," (2) "Sociological Persuasion," (3) "Psychological Invasion," (4) "Physiological Addiction," (5) "Biochemical Transformation," (6) "Pharmaceutical Documentation," (7) "International Consumption," (8) "Alkaloid Commercialization," (9) "Cocaine Importation," and (10) "Medical Recommendations."

The last chapter summarizes the theme of the book, saying "that we need to rethink the ways that we communicate about food and drugs in America" and "that food and drug abuse are different expressions of the same attitude and just because we label a plant a 'drug' does not mean it will have no nutritional effects."

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