



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



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Book Reviews

JOHN W. THIERET, Book Review Editor

Interior Plantscapes. Installation, Maintenance, and Management. George H. Manaker. 283 pp. illus. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1981. \$17.95.

Interior Planting in Large Buildings. A Handbook for Architects, Interior Designers, and Horticulturists. Stephen Scrivens. 129 pp. illus. Halsted Press Division, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1980. \$44.95.

The recent popularity of foliage plants is shown by a nearly 800% increase in wholesale value of these plants sold during the last decade. These two books are a reflection of this popularity and the rapid commercial development in this field. The authors are lecturers in horticulture and landscape design. The contents of the books are quite similar, covering history and origins of interior plants, interior environmental factors, artificial light sources, containers, root media, fertilization, watering, etc. Compared to Manaker, Scrivens goes into more construction detail with planters and irrigation systems and his book has a larger format and nicer illustrations. Manaker gives references with each chapter, which helps in finding further information; Scrivens gives none. Both books could have given a better treatment of container media and growing plants in shallow depths and limited root environments. The problems that develop with complex systems of hydroculture or hydroponics should have been indicated by both authors. Both books would be adequate for a college text in the interior plantscape area. I prefer the Manaker book with its references and lower price.

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Natural Products as Medicinal Agents. J. L. Beal and E. Reinhard. 562 pp. illus. Hippokrates Verlag, Stuttgart, 1981. DM 98.00.

Comprising the Plenary Lectures of the International Research Congress in Medicinal Plant Research in Strasbourg in 1980, this volume represents a wealth of material on recent advances in natural products chemistry, pharmacology, and biology. The volume contains 22 articles by 41 internationally known contributors. The articles are arranged in five groups: "Natural Products of Higher Plants," "Biologically Active Natural Products," "Marine Natural Products," "Ethnopharmacology," and "Future Biological Production of Medicinal Agents."

The appearance of such a publication is most welcome at this time when many investigations are becoming aware of the extraordinary wealth of still chemically uninvestigated species in the plant kingdom.

The volume is strongly bound in cloth, the paper is excellent, and the type is easily readable. It is a supplement of *Planta Medica* and *Lloydia*. The price is not excessive for the amount of new information and the quality of the book.

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Working Men and Ganja. Melanie Creagan Dreher. 216 pp. illus. Institute for the Study of Human Issues, Philadelphia, 1982. \$18.50.

This book is much needed to fill a gap as its subtitle indicates: *Marihuana Use in Rural Jamaica*.

The author has had appreciable experience in Jamaica and has studied the controversial use of marihuana amongst the poorer Jamaican people. Consequently, she is more than usually equipped to treat such a topic on a firm foundation. She has worked on ganja use from the point of view of the whole community, not as an isolated abnormality in Jamaica.

Her chapters indicate the breadth of her treatment: (1) "The Communities," (2) "Ganja in an Institutional Framework," (3) "Ganja in Socioeconomic Perspective," (4) "Ganja and the Organization of Work," and (5) "Ganja and Worker Performance." A final chapter—"Cannabis and Culture"—attempts to evaluate the use of cannabis in the light of the foregoing interpretations.

There are two sentences in Dreher's book that, in my opinion, exemplify the logical treatment she has accorded this subject: ". . . this research was not intended as a defense of cannabis use. Nor do I believe that the conclusions reached here can be applied indiscriminately to other cultures and settings, although the findings should provide useful material for such comparisons."

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The Family Orobanchaceae. Ontogeny and Phylogeny. E. S. Teryokhin and Z. I. Nikiticheva. (In Russian.) 228 pp. illus. Nauka, Leningrad Branch, Leningrad, 1981. Price not given.

This publication from the famous Komarov Botanical Institute is concerned largely with origin, systematic position, and taxonomy of the Orobanchaceae. The supraspecific classification of the Scrophulariaceae has long been an issue with botanists, some maintaining the Orobanchaceae in its narrowest sense, i.e., achlorophyllous root parasites, while others include the parasitic members of the Scrophulariaceae with the Orobanchaceae. Teryokhin and Nikiticheva agree with the former, claiming that the boundary between the two families is artificial and that the Orobanchaceae result from convergence of parasitic taxa of the Scrophulariaceae. They recognize two subfamilies of broomrapes, Phacellanthoideae and Orobanchoideae, based on anatomy of stems and morphology of inflorescences. Carpological and embryological data indicate that *Aeginetia*, *Christisonia*, and *Orobanche* may be somewhat artificial genera. The book appears to have a wealth of material on anatomy, morphology, biogeography, and systematics of the Orobanchaceae.

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Growing California Native Plants. Marjorie G. Schmidt. 366 pp. illus. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1980. \$7.95 (soft cover); \$15.95 (hard cover).

In this useful book, Marjorie Schmidt has presented an admirably complete outline of information on naturalizing and utilizing the native plant species of California. In the first chapter the thesis is successfully presented that native plants should be used in the landscape. She discusses procedures for starting with natives, beginning with propagation and continuing with their culture. Using a simple but effective format, Schmidt groups the native plant materials into chapters on annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, and trees. Scientific and common names are provided for each species along with a description of the plant, cultural information, and an estimation of garden value. Eight color plates and numerous line drawings aid in identification. Over 50 pages of appendices provide: lists of native plants arranged according to habitat requirements in the garden; a list of the major plant communities of California; an extensive and complete set of references (books,