

dealt with and the cytological and physiological complexities involved in the process of digestion are discussed in detail. After reading through this chapter the reader is brought to the realization of the fact that the whole process of digestion in *Drosera* is not, contrary to what one learns from the usual accounts, a simple one. Prof. Lloyd points out the many-sided interest of this problem, and emphasises the need for further work in this promising field.

By far the most wonderful of the carnivorous plants is *Utricularia* belonging to the family Lentibulariaceæ. In this family we find examples of the simplest traps (*Pinguicula*), the most complex of the pitfall type (*Genlisea*), and the incomparable trap of *Utricularia* itself. Prof. Lloyd compares the trap of *Utricularia* to a mouse-trap, not the ordinary simple dead-fall one, but an elaborate, automatic, self-setting mouse-trap which catches as fast as the victims come, and which is provided also with a disposal plant so that nothing is left at last but hair and bones, the trap working in any position and even under water. This analogy may be rather far-fetched, but as Prof. Lloyd remarks, it at least serves to indicate that the *Utricularia* trap is a pretty complex bit of mechanism.

While ordinary accounts of the carnivorous plants do not include the fungi which prey on animalcules, a chapter in the present book is devoted to the zoophagus fungi. It is interesting to read how uncanny these fungi are and what diabolical methods they employ in capturing their victims.

The origin and evolution of the carnivorous plants are some of the interesting questions that arise in the minds of interested readers, but unfortunately little can be said in answer to them, and as Prof. Lloyd says, how these specialised organs of capture in these plants could have evolved defies our present knowledge.

All students of botany interested in this subject will be sure to have nothing but praise for the book, and gratitude to the author for making his extensive and intimate knowledge of these plants available to a very large circle of readers. Throughout the book the language is simple and lucid, and the style thoroughly enjoyable. The book is profusely illustrated with numerous photographic reproductions and excellent line drawings, many of them prepared by Prof. Lloyd himself. The usefulness of the book is further enhanced by the incorporation under different chapters of all the original and up-to-date literature in this field.

The get-up of the book leaves nothing to be desired, and the price is quite modest. Considering the present difficulties due to war, the publishers deserve our warmest congratulations for bringing out this volume, the ninth in the new series of plant science books under the editorship of Dr. Frans Verdoorn. This book is an outstanding contribution to botanical science by Prof. Lloyd and ought to find an important place in every botanical and general science library.

S. B. KAUSIK,

Indian Village Health. By J. N. Norman-Walker. (Oxford University Press, Madras), 1943. Pp. 90. Price Rs. 2-8-0.

In this small book, the author has made an attempt to deal with most of the important health problems affecting Indian village life. General principles in the handling of the common Communicable Diseases have been dealt with. Local experience seems to have unduly influenced some of the observations of the author and several of the detailed recommendations under Malaria, Small-pox, Water and Milk have been superseded by more up-to-date practices.

The absence of stress on the importance of grain movements as a major source of spread of plague and the necessity for early diagnosis of cases of Tuberculosis are serious omissions. The use of copper-sulphate for destroying harmful organisms in water is limited to the prevention of objectionable algæ growths only.

The brief notes given under Appendix is helpful for the field worker in Public Health. The few model plans included at the end of the book, are useful in designing construction of public utility. B. ANANTHASWAMY RAO.

An Introduction to Historical Plant Geography. By E. V. Wulff. (Waltham, Mass.: The Chronica Botanica Co.; Calcutta: Macmillan & Co., Ltd.), 1943. Pp. 223. Price \$4.75.

The book gives a fascinating account of the History of Plant Geography. As is usual with the Chronica Botanica publication series, the book is written by an acknowledged authority and includes most of the works of the author himself. The entire work is divided into eleven chapters and embraces all aspects of plant geography. It will be noticed that every advance in the field of Botany has some bearing or the other on the study of plant geography.

It is not possible within this short space even to review the wealth of facts presented in the book. But a very brief account of the subjects treated therein might not be out of place. But one must certainly go through the accounts given in the book to get a proper perspective of the importance of the study of plant geography.

The region of distribution of any taxonomic unit which is termed an area, might be natural, or artificial by intentional or accidental introduction by man. The topography which is affected by physico-geographical conditions is often made difficult to be comprehended on account of inherent peculiarities of the plants themselves. Some are stenothermic (growing within certain restricted temperatures), others require mycorrhiza for their growth or even a particular type of insect visitors. The latter forms are usually termed stenotopic.

Regarding areas and their distribution, a detailed account of the present status of the "age and area" hypothesis is given. It is well known that the centre of an area for a parti-