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Book Notices

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Floriculture

This book is described by its authors as "... a text for the teaching of a course dealing with ornamental plants." It will serve this purpose well. Approximately 140 pages are devoted to lists, keys, and tables of the characteristics, requirements, and floricultural uses of ornamental plants. The extensiveness of these lists will make the book valuable also to commercial ornamental plantsmen as a reference manual. The primary list of each kind of plant is arranged alphabetically according to taxonomic family. It is unfortunate that the authors, trained scientists, were not completely successful in avoiding the layman's unscientific practise of ascribing the capacity for human emotion to plants: on page 9, "suffer;" on pages 231, 339, and 402, "prefer;" and on page 324, "partial to." The seed is incorrectly defined as a "ripened ovary" on page 164. No other errors of definition were noted. The loose language of popular catalogues found its way into the descriptions of hardy waterlilies. Of the variety Attraction it is stated, "This is the largest hardy lily, ..." while of Odorata sulphurea grandiflora it is stated, "This is the largest of all hardy lilies. ..." All the illustrations are line drawings of only fair quality. Figure 49 does not show what the text describes for a side graft. Besides nine chapters on particular groups of plants, there are ten others including the following titles: Soils, Fertilizers, Soilless Culture, and Greenhouse Management.—Elton F. Paddock.