Book Notice

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The author proposes that this pocket book aims to do three things: (1) provide a means of identification of those plant galls which are likely to be found fairly easily in England, (2) outline the life cycle of the gall-causing agents, and (3) suggest investigations which can be carried out in the field or the laboratory to learn more of the biology of galls. About one-half of the book is devoted to the nearly 300 illustrations of more than 150 plant galls. Most of the illustrations are color photographs; a few are water-color drawings. Most of the illustrations are good, but some, including those illustrating the *Puccinia* and *Gymnosporangium* rusts, are poor. The text describes each of the galls illustrated and in many cases includes comments on the life history of the causal agent. Galls caused by bacteria, fungi, nematodes, mites, and insects are included. Certain conditions not usually thought of as galls, such as rusts on barberry, wheat, and hollyhock; the *Albugo-Peronospora* complex on *Capsella*; and holly leaf miner on *Ilex*; are included. These are included because the term “gall” is defined by the author as a condition of the host resulting from an abnormal increase in the number of plant cells or by the cells enlarging abnormally, even though not sufficiently so to be visible with the unaided eye.

Any student of natural history will find this book of interest, although the American publisher’s price is excessive. It is apparently available in Britain from Blandford Press at a considerably lower price.

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