Genetics of Garden Plants

It is of the utmost importance to have available volumes in which the genetics of economic groups is compiled in usable form. Jull has already done this for poultry, and now Crane and Lawrence of the John Innes Horticultural Institution have brought together the material on horticultural plants. The resulting book is an excellent compendium of our knowledge of Mendelian inheritance and chromosomal abberations in a long list of species. An opening chapter on the genetics of diploid plants illustrates the basic principles of heredity, and presents interesting cases of the interactions of genes. This is followed by two chapters on the cytology of diploid plants and polyploid plants, respectively. The genetics of individual species is then taken up. Flowering and ornamental plants, vegetable and salad plants, and fruits, are all considered in detail. An especially fine feature is the series of tables giving the genetic constitution of the various varieties of each species. Bud sports and other variations comprise one chapter, and incompatibility and sterility are each given a chapter. The book closes with an informative section on the origin and development of new and improved forms. A glossary, a bibliography and an index complete the volume. The thanks of all geneticists will be forthcoming to the authors and publishers for making this valuable addition to available genetic information.—L. H. S.

The Genetics of Garden Plants, by M. B. Crane and W. J. C. Lawrence. xvi+236 pp. London, Macmillan & Co., 1934.

Amebiasis

This monograph of amebiasis, the first in the field for many years, will definitely strengthen any medical library to which it may find its way. American physicians are notoriously deficient, both in the fundamental aspects and practical handling of protozoan diseases. This volume fills a gap in the contemporary literature of the monograph type relating to this class of disorders, and should be in the possession of every internist.

The various chapters, including etiology, epidemiology and symptomatology, are well balanced in quality and volume of discussion. Especially valuable are the 40 pages in which the parasitic ameba, other than Endamebia histolytica, and the technique of laboratory examinations are discussed. The chapters on pathology are perhaps too prolix and could be easily condensed without loss. One expects a somewhat more complete discussion of the Chicago epidemic, not only because of its importance epidemiologically, but also because of the apparent temporizing measures adopted by local authorities which the author, as a member of the investigating committee, should either condemn or justify to his readers.

Bibliographies, illustrations and indexing, often neglected, are adequate and add greatly to the value of the publication. The constant repetition of 'amebiasis and amebic dysentery' is unworthy of the volume and an unfortunate and unwarranted gesture to the presumed ignorance of the general practitioner.

However, considered in its entirety, the author has made a very worth-while contribution and the volume deserves a wide circulation.—B. K. WISEMAN.

Amebiasis and Amebic Dysentery, by Charles F. Craig. 315 pages. Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas, 1934. $5.00.