Cultivated Orchids (review)*—This book, which has been translated from the French, is written by a well known French orchid grower with whom a botanist of the Paris Natural History Museum has collaborated. The work is comprehensive and a great deal of valuable information is contained within its compass of 112 pages. There are chapters on such subjects as geographical distribution, morphology, hybridisation, glasshouse management, propagation, and the information is authoritative and very relevant to the cultivation of these plants. It has, of course, been written for French conditions, and some of the materials recommended for growing media will not be available in this country and the value of the English version of this book would have been greatly enhanced had this part been rewritten.

The colour plates are very attractive, and there are many monochrome photographs some of which admirably illustrate cultural operations.

The work will appeal to the professional horticulturist as well as to the amateur.

E. E. KEMP.

Ornamental Conifers (review)†—This is hardly a work to which one would resort to name Conifers, and yet 53 of the total 114 pages are devoted to botanical descriptions. Most of these, however, do contain some information regarding the behaviour in cultivation of the species discussed, but the reader should bear in mind that these remarks are relevant to France and not to the British Isles. For example, the author states (page 64) that *Cupressus goveniana* "is recommended for its hardiness and ornamental value"—the latter quality is not being questioned but the species is certainly not hardy outwith a few of the mildest British localities.

There are chapters on such subjects as botanical classification, geographic distribution, the choice of species according to use in the landscape and garden, and according to form and colour and also according to soil. This section will appeal to the landscape gardener, but it is regretted that the very important matter of provenance has not been mentioned in this connection. For example, the Maritime Pine, *Pinus pinaster*, is included in a list of species recommended for calcareous soil, but the various provenances of this species show wide variation in lime tolerance. In Sicily the Italian forestry authorities have obtained best results on limestone there with a race from Central Italy, whilst a race from Les Landes in France planted on the same soil showed a high incidence of chlorosis.

The chapters on practical subjects such as cultivation and propagation are really too brief to be of much value—a result of attempting to cover too wide a field within the compass of a small volume of 114 pages. There are a considerable number of mis-spelt names, e.g. *Abies cheniensis* van Thiegen for *Abies chensiensis* van Tieghem, *Abies nephrolespis* for *Abies nephrolepis* and (page 87) *Pinus balfoufiana* for *Pinus balfouriana*.

E. E. KEMP.

* Orchids, by M. Lecoufle & H. Rose. London, Crosby Lockwood & Son, 1957. Pp. 112, 30 plates (10 col.). Price 17 shillings.

† Ornamental Conifers, by V. Chaudun (transl. by V. Higgins). London, Crosby Lockwood & Son, 1956. Pp. 114, 30 plates (10 col.). Price 17 shillings.