Mention is made of *S. zimmermannii* in these notes to encourage a further search to be made for it. The two syntypes are not in the Amani herbarium (now at Nairobi), and it seems likely that they were never returned from Berlin after the species was described by Engler. In that case they will have been destroyed in the fire. Engler placed this species in the same group as *S. caulescens* and considered the thick, almost leathery little-toothed leaves the most distinctive feature.

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**The Old French Roses** (review)*.—Seven guineas, it seems to me, is a very high price to pay for a twenty-page essay on the Rose in Literature by Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, a seventeen-page historical account of the Gallica Roses with short descriptive notes of some fifty of them by Mr. James Russell, and eight reproductions, by an eight-colour photo-litho process, from paintings by Mr. Charles Raymond. I assume that it is principally for the plates that one is asked to pay this sum of money. Unfortunately, to my eyes, none of them makes an artistic or very satisfactory picture and all are quite lacking in design; in each, one or two flowers and a bud, with some foliage, are all bunched up together and give the impression that the material recently has been dragged from a polythene bag. Moreover, the colouring is not as accurate as it should be. 'Belle de Crecy' has an expanding bud and a mature flower; 'Camaieux' three buds in various stages of development as well as a flower fully mature; neither plate gives any real idea of the fascinating changes in colour in the petals as these mature. I fail to see in 'Cardinal de Richelieu' the rich velvety maroon purple of this wonderful Rose; in 'Charles de Mills' the "ground colour rose-crimson shaded with violet and deepening to an almost black-crimson . . ." of the text; in 'Officinalis' (why name the plate 'Maxima'?) the "rich rose-crimson with deeper striae", again of Mr. Russell's text.

In spite of these shortcomings, all enthusiasts of these old garden Roses, and today there are many, will welcome Mr. Blunt's scholarly and charming essay and Mr. Russell's instructive text, and will appreciate the sincere purpose of all who have been concerned in the production of the book.

H. R. FLETCHER.

* Old Garden Roses. Part 2: The Gallicas, by Wilfrid Blunt and James Russell. Painted by Charles Raymond. London, George Rainbird Ltd. 1957. Pp. 48, 8 coloured plates. Price seven guineas.