bullatus, *S. montanus* and some allied species is an interesting point, and it greatly increases the difficulty of dealing with flowering material. As yet, however, we have no means of evaluating the taxonomic importance of this feature.

The Genus Mammillaria (review)*.—In this book the author has compiled a dictionary of more than 700 names which have appeared at some time under the genus *Mammillaria*. Of these, more than 300 are described in detail, with classification, habitat and most valuable cultural recommendations, while some 200 are transferred to other genera. The remainder includes many synonyms and reference to a large number of species which exist only as catalogue names without adequate description.

It is well known that there is no existing work on the genus which combines simple description of the species grown in this country with detailed advice on their cultivation and Mr. Marsden is to be congratulated on the amount of extremely valuable information in his book. At the same time one regrets that no real attempt is made to assist the gardener to identify his species, bearing in mind the size of the genus and the frequency with which one receives incorrectly named plants. In the introduction a summary is given of Borg's classification of the genus into two main sections comprising ten series, and while in the text some 200 species are thus classified individually, they are not arranged under these series and there is no synopsis of the species contained in each group. Nor does the index differentiate between species and synonyms.

Six plates in colour and nineteen in black and white illustrate twenty-two species and six of the ten series. These undoubtedly might have been more representative and a page reference to plates in the text would have been an advantage. There are two plates of *Mammillaria bella* (now referred to the genus *Escobaria*), four of *M. hahneana* and its varieties, and a plate of *Mammillaria schwartziana* (in the text re-classified as *Coryphantha schwartziana*). One wonders if the plates of *M. querreroni* var. *subhamala* and *M. zapilotensis* have been transposed and why, when the latter plant is obviously flowering, the flowers have not yet been described. The practice of enclosing the name of the authority of a species in parenthesis when there is no secondary citation is open to criticism but this and other points are really minor in comparison with the practical horticultural value of the information contained in this book.

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* Mammillaria, by C. Marsden. London, Cleaver Hume Press, 1957. Pp. 407, 25 photographs (6 coloured) on 9 plates. Price thirty-five shillings.