A herbalist's encyclopaedia (review).—This work* consists of 1216 entries arranged alphabetically by botanical names: under each entry local names in up to 21 languages are listed, the botanical family and country of origin, and herbal information on the parts used, constituents and action. Criticism cannot be wholly disarmed by the prefatory admission of possible inaccuracies—even when this is expressed in seven languages!

For example, in the middle of *Centaurea* (Compositae) is 262 *Centaurea Centaurium* (Gentianaceae), although the other centauries are under *Erythraea*—which should, of course, be *Centaurium*. Under 343, *Copaifera officinalis* (and other species), *Leguminosae*, Kauri Gum (New Zealand) is given as an English name; this copal-like gum comes from the coniferous *Agathis australis*, which does not appear in the book. No *Copaifera* grows in New Zealand. How does 355, *Cotyledon umbilicus* differ from 1170, *Umbilicus pendulinus*? And so on. One trusts that the herbal information is less misleading: yet here the glossary fails to differentiate (for instance, between antiperiodic, antipyretic and febrifuge: or diaphoretic and sudorific). If they are synonymous, why not use one consistently?

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* Codex Vegetabilis, by E. F. Steinmetz. Amsterdam, the Author. 1957. Pp. 8 + [144] + 136 + [10]. Price 60 guilders.