Pelargoniums (review)*.—Growers and amateurs have been waiting for such a book as this for a long time. The author obviously has given considerable thought to its planning and preparation. It is excellently laid out, embraces species, hybrids and cultivars, and is profusely illustrated.

Part I is concerned mainly with discussions on the groups of cultivated Pelargoniums, with various methods of propagation and the conditions necessary for good culture, and with pests and diseases. Whether one grows Pelargoniums for pleasure or for Show purposes, all this information is extremely valuable.

Lists of cultivars under their respective Show sections comprise a section of Part II. Where possible the description of each cultivar is accompanied by the appropriate reference to the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart and colour observations have been taken in September/October and April/May to obtain maximum accuracy.

The rest of Part II deals with the species. Although not monographic in treatment, this work will nevertheless be of considerable value to the taxonomist. It is based on Harvey's and on Knuth's classifications and lists 190 "good" species and 29 doubtful ones, as against the 232 listed by Knuth (1912) since when some 70 more have been described. As practically every published name is accounted for, the author has thus considerably reduced the number of species.

It is disappointing to find several inconsistencies and spelling errors marring this part of the book. Most of the "good" species carry a reference to their place of publication. Unfortunately in some instances this information has been omitted, and among such omissions are *P. prolificum* (Linn.) Clifford, *P. pinnatifidum* (Burm. f.) Clifford and *P. hemisphericum* Clifford, which names are not yet in the Index Kewensis and it is difficult therefore to know where the new species and new combinations were first published. *P. dispar* Brown should be *P. dispar* N. E. Brown; "Burt Davey" should read "Burtt Davy" (as in the bibliography); "artimaesifolium" is correctly "artemisiaefolium". There will doubtless be an opportunity to correct these and other minor errors, including those in the index, in the next edition.

The third part of the book contains several appendices of interest to the enthusiast and specialist. Finally there is a glossary of botanical terms and a very useful bibliography with pertinent remarks by the author who, incidentally, adds to the value of the book by drawing attention to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants and by explaining the mechanics of species nomenclature.

L. A. LAUENER.

* Pelargoniums including the popular "Geranium", by Derek Clifford. London, Blandford Press. 1958. Pp. x +299, 101 photographs (including 22 coloured) on 30 plates. Price forty-two shillings.