Azaleas (review).—Mr. Frederic P. Lee, a director of the American Horticultural Society, has written a comprehensive and authoritative book* on azaleas. It is a remarkable contribution and contains more detailed information on the culture of azaleas than any other work so far published. Although intended for the American gardener the book will be of great value to any person who is interested in this subject.

The book is in four parts. The first two parts contain a wealth of information on azalea culture, and will undoubtedly be of particular interest to all growers. Part I deals with a number of general topics including an interesting account of propagation by seeds, cuttings, layering, grafting and division. The chapter on Pests and Diseases contains most useful information on the control of insects and other pests, with full details on the use of insecticides, fungicides and other chemicals. Part II is devoted to azalea horticulture. Soil, mulches and fertilizers are fully treated, with general recommendations for their uses, and there are helpful remarks on the nutritional importance of the elements iron, nitrogen, calcium, potassium, magnesium, phosphorus, boron and manganese. Part III covers the historical background to azaleas, including the Ghent, Mollis, Indian, Kurume and other groups of hybrids. Part IV provides descriptive lists of azalea species and hybrids.

The book is illustrated with many excellent photographs, several fine diagrams, and six plates in colour. It is well written and the subject-matter efficiently presented. For all who wish to have a broader knowledge of azaleas and their cultivation, the book can be recommended most strongly.

H. H. DAVIDIAN.

* The Azalea Book, by Frederic P. Lee. Princetown, N.J. and London, D. Van Nostrand Company Inc. 1958. Pp. xii+324, 62 plates (6 coloured). Price sixty-seven shillings and sixpence.