Introductory Horticulture (review)*—Professor Christopher has attempted to provide a satisfactory text not only for a beginner's course in horticulture but also for gardeners who are curious to know something of the scientific background for various horticultural practices. For American students and gardeners no doubt he has been successful. His book is in no sense a practical handbook. Throughout the emphasis is on principles rather than on practice although certain crops are sufficiently broadly treated to permit the book being used to some extent as a cultural guide.

Roughly the book can be divided into two parts, the first providing a general scientific background to soils and soil management, plant propagation and various types of plant growing structures, and the second treating of specific crops—vegetables, flowers and fruit. But not all the scientific bases for horticultural practices are contained in the first part; much of it finds a place in part two, where, dealing with a particular crop the author finds it convenient to supply the scientific background for some well known practices. Thus respiration is briefly touched on early in the chapter devoted to classification, growth and structure, and is discussed again in connection with the storage of horticultural crops; photoperiodism is not mentioned until the timing of the blooms of Chrysanthemums is discussed.

Even an introductory book on horticulture must necessarily have a very wide coverage with the result, as here, that many sections must receive very superficial treatment. In spite of this, American students will no doubt greatly appreciate Professor Christopher's book—British students less so even though much of the contents is of general interest.

H. R. FLETCHER.

Wild Flowers in Colour (review)†—Penguin books have added yet another volume to the succession of British Plant Illustrations which have appeared in the last few years. In this case the original drawings were made by a Swedish artist, E. Hahnewald, and have been published in Sweden and Denmark with brief descriptions. In their present form they have been rearranged by Dr. J. Hutchinson according to his own system of classification. A number of Scandinavian plants not occurring in Britain have been omitted and several British species added, also drawn by E. Hahnewald. The choice of species does, however, reflect the origin of the drawings, for many of the rarest British species are illustrated, e.g. *Diapensia lapponica*, *Saxifraga cernua* and *Arabis alpina*, whereas *Primula vulgaris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum* and other common species are absent, and the

* Introductory Horticulture, by E. P. Christopher. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc. 1958. Pp. viii+482. Illustrations. Price fifty-eight shillings.

† Wild Flowers in Colour, illustrations by E. Hahnewald, descriptions by J. Hutchinson. London, Penguin Books Ltd. 1958. Pp. 127 and 128 coloured plates. Price seventeen shillings and sixpence.