working in a wider field and seeking more extensive knowledge of pollen analysis it is unfortunately too restricted in scope. The price also is high for a slight volume of limited usefulness.

E. M. KNOX.

A New German Colour Chart (review)*—At present, the only reasonably accurate way of designating a particular colour is to refer it to the most similar part of a standard colour chart. In at least the botanical sphere, however, there are different standards of colour in different countries. Thus, in Britain that most widely used is the Royal Horticultural Society's colour chart; in America, it is still Ridgeway's Colour Standard; and, in France it is the Couleur Repertoire. Now, with the latest German entry into the field, we have yet another standard of colour which, presumably, will become the normal reference work in German-speaking lands.

Considerable labour and thought combined with practical experience has gone into both the basic lay-out of this work and the reproduction and presentation of the colour. The visible spectrum is represented as a circle divided into 24 basic colour segments. Each of these (together with six other commonly occurring colours) is further divided into 15 or 16 subsidiary colours. These are based on tone and intensity variations, dependent on the amount of black, grey or white present. Each of the colour blocks, which are mounted on a black background, has a small perforation in its centre through which the sample can be viewed.

Measuring $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, stiffly bound and with sturdy colour cards, it is a most practical and convenient colour atlas which is just as easy to use out of doors as indoors. Although matching colours is normally not an easy or completely satisfactory process, it was found using this chart that flower samples could be colour-named quite easily, accurately and quickly. In at least this respect, the other colour charts mentioned above compare badly with the German work. When the necessity of international standardisation of colour nomenclature is finally recognised, it is to be hoped that special cognizance will be taken of Professor Biesalski's work.

I. C. HEDGE.

A Toadstool Handbook (review)†—This volume continues the lineage of justifiably esteemed Handbuchs für Pilzfreunde of which the first appeared in 1895. In this new series we are promised four volumes with illustrations in colour of one thousand species. The first volume, now under review, includes the most common macrofungi and the succeeding three to appear within the next three years will deal with the non-gilled, the light and the dark-gilled fungi respectively.

An introduction of twenty-two short chapters supplies the would-be

* Pflanzenfarben-Atlas mit Farbzeichen nach DIN 6164, by E. Biesalski. Göttingen, Musterschmidt-Verlag. 1957. Part 1: loose leaf file of 13 colour cards and booklet of 21 pages of text. Price: DM 35.

† Handbuch für Pilzfreunde, Band, I, by E. Michael edited and revised by B. Hennig. Gustav Fischer, Jena. 1958. Pp. viii+260, 17 text figures and 120 colour plates. Price: DM 36.50.