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.

fungus hunter with general information on the larger fungi. Most aspects are well covered in this part—the chapter on colours seems particularly sound—but occasionally the selection of material seems ill balanced. For example, in Chapter IV good illustrations and more adequate treatment of cystidia would have been more useful than the rather poor text illustrations of basidial development from Gaumann and Kniep, especially in a book which should lead enthusiasts on to more detailed examination of their finds.

The two hundred colour illustrations by eleven artists set a high standard which reflects good, accurate originals and first-class printing. The illustrations of *Boletus* and *Agaricus* are particularly outstanding. The text accompanying each plate is sound giving concise description of the species and then, perhaps even more important, differential notes on closely related species. Occasionally a key to related species is included. However, it is saddening to see in a good text the too frequent mistake of quoting authorities in the form " Fr. ex Bull." instead of " Bull. ex Fr."

This book with its succeeding sister volumes promises to be a most useful general series for fungus hunters. It should cover sufficient species to counter charges of serious incompleteness, the bane of most books of this type, and the high standard of colour plates will remove much of the tedium to beginners of the dichotomous key approach to identification. To many the German text may be a stumbling block, but then where can the English reader go for a book of this calibre other than to foreign presses?

D. M. HENDERSON.

Camellias (review)*—This is a splendid book, a model of its kind, and the Royal Horticultural Society are to be congratulated on having sponsored this detailed botanical revision of a horticulturally important genus. Mr. Sealy for long has been recognized as the botanical authority on the genus. He has studied the Camellia material contained in every important herbarium in the world, examined the living plants in gardens in Britain and elsewhere, and the result is a statement as authoritative as one could wish for. Eighty-two species are recognized, arranged in twelve sections, and keys are provided for their identification. Each species is comprehensively described, herbarium specimens which the author has examined are cited and each species is illustrated by means of the author's own line drawings. In his Preface, Mr. Sealy is too modest about his black and white figures; they are excellent in that they provide illustrations of all the species and show far better than any description how the species differ from each other. Incidentally, the plate of *Camellia saluenensis* Stapf ex Bean, from a painting by Stella Ross-Craig, is quite beautiful, and one can only agree with Mr. Sealy that it is a matter of regret that circumstances have permitted only one of her paintings to be reproduced. There is a chapter on the history of the genus; one on the taxonomic position of the genera in the family *Theaceae* Mirbel, which chapter is an excellent clear survey of the eight genera which compose the tribe *Gordoniae* DC.;

* A Revision of the Genus Camellia, by J. Robert Sealy. London, The Royal Horticultural Society. 1958. Pp. vii+239, 1 coloured plate and illustrations. Price three guineas.