Hardy Trees and Shrubs (review).—The great contribution that has been made to British gardens by the floras of other lands is quickly brought home by a perusal of this book* by Mr. S. G. Harrison. Some 400 trees and shrubs are mentioned in detail, and many more in passing, and they come from every continent. The earliest introductions were from Europe and the latest from China, but N. Africa, New Zealand, Australia and of course the Americas have all provided hardy plants worthy of cultivation.

A selection of the plants described is illustrated, a few of them very beautifully in colour by Miss Ann Webster but most in black and white by Ernest Petts. Apart from the assistance here and there of these illustrations the use of the book for identification rests upon the individual descriptions of the plants together with a key to genera constructed by Mr. R. D. Meikle.

It is obvious that the author has had to be selective in his choice of plants, a matter on which no two people will ever agree, but as a guide to the best trees and shrubs available, it is a pity so few cultivars have been included. This omission is understandable in genera like *Rosa* and *Rhododendron* where there are hundreds but in others, such as *Buddleia* and *Erica* (to mention two for which none are given), the best cultivars are a great improvement on the wild species and of undoubted value and importance to the average gardener.

P. S. GREEN

Great French Naturalists (review)†—The subject of the third volume in this valuable series is Victor Jacquemont (1801–1832). Pupil of Desfontaines, colleague of A. de Jussieu, Kunth, Brongniart and Jaubert amongst botanists and numbering amongst his friends in wider walks of life Stendhal and Prosper Merrimée, Jacquemont's gifts were widely appreciated by his contemporaries and his many-sided interests are well covered in this admirable volume. Botanists will welcome especially J. F. Leroy's essay "Jacquemont botaniste" and particularly the account of his work in India and fascinating extracts from his diaries and letters. Jacquemont ranks with the brilliant young naturalists of the East India Company, Jack and Griffith, who died when their contributions to botany had barely begun. It is good that their memory should be kept alive and it is to be hoped that this volume will be widely read, especially in the subcontinent where Jacquemont did his best work and where he died.

B. L. BURTT

* Garden Trees and Shrubs, by S. G. Harrison, with key to genera by R. D. Meikle. London, Eyre & Spottiswoode (The Kew Series No. 4). 1960. Pp. 318, 73 figures, 15 coloured plates. Price: 25s.

† Jacquemont, by A. W. Brown *et al.* Paris. Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. 1959. Pp. 461. 50 plates.