Woody plants of Northern Rhodesia (review)*—Mr. White has brought to fruition many years of study by himself and other members of the Commonwealth Forestry Institute at Oxford. It is a fine and useful achievement to produce an account of the woody plants of a territory such as Northern Rhodesia in one volume. One cannot help reflecting that if Hutchinson's phylogenetic system were followed in the more ambitious floras in preparation, we should have (whatever the quality of the reasons) the best of results. For of the predominant importance of woody plants there can surely be little argument.

We are told in the introduction that certain "supplementary items", including a key to the families, were omitted because their preparation would have delayed publication. There may be a small supplementary volume later, but one must question the judgment that ranks a key to the families as a supplementary item. Which users will find such genera as *Olinia*, *Alangium*, *Anisophyllea*, *Ficalhoa* (surely just as unhappily placed in Theaceae as in Ericaceae), *Ochthocosmus* and many another without one? Only the very skilled.

If I had to choose three things for special commendation in this volume I would select the notes on floral biology which precede the keys to the genera in Rubiaceae and Asclepiadaceae, and the fact that here at last is an account (prepared in collaboration with A. C. Hoyle) of the Northern Rhodesian species of *Brachystegia*. But to select is unfair, for the achievement lies in the whole.

In addition to illustrations specially prepared at Oxford, some plates have been borrowed from the Belgian floras of central Africa. All are good, but printing has treated the English artists more kindly, for the continental blocks have received a very light imprint and look weak and pale in comparison with their original publication. The artists as a whole have been somewhat slighted by the author, who has either put no references to the figures in his text or has hidden them in the most difficult place to spot, at the end of the cited specimens. But this is a book for constant use in the field and familiarity will soon take care of these minor criticisms.

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*Forest Flora of Northern Rhodesia, by F. White, Oxford University Press, 1962. Price 63 shillings.