Fungi for amateurs*—This volume, the second of a projected series of four, professes to deal with the non-gill-bearing fungi—to stick to the German subtitle closely. The text which occupies the first 188 pages is a weird hotch-potch of history. (Micheli, J. S. Schaeffer, Bulliard and Sowerby), comparative morphology, rudimentary physiology (Mycorrhiza and geotropic effects), and sketches of the classification of the major groups from Myxomycetes to Polyporales. What is remarkable in this conspectus type treatment of the major groups is its appalling lack of uniformity—twenty-three pages on *Geastraceae* and *Lycoperdon* dismissed in a paragraph or two, to mention only one example. The reader may pick up some interesting odd snippets of information amongst all the jumble here but if he wants a balanced account of any group this is not the place to look for it.

The redeeming feature of the whole work lies in the second half which contains colour plates with descriptions on the opposite page. The illustrations are on the whole well done and reproduced, although the one of *Fomes annosus* scarcely does that fungus justice. Here, again, however the scope of the work is spoilt one feels, by a few Ascomycetes thrown in at the end. Is there any point in illustrating one *Dasyscypha* when we know perfectly well that there are dozens of them. If the author is going to start amateurs on the slippery slopes of 'Dasyscyphology' he might at least give him a reference to the only work which will help him—Dennis' revision of the Hyloscyphaceae and cut out a lot of the obsolete works cited at the end of the chapter on Ascomycetes.

To sum up, a good book of pretty pictures, a chaotic text with odd snatches of interest, hardly to be recommended to students for the account of fungi is quite unbalanced and far too much hindered with historical irrelevencies.

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