The shorter British Flora. The second edition of the Excursion Flora* manages to bring together a very considerable amount of additional information from the investigations of the last nine years with a practically imperceptible increase in size. The treatment of ferns is now revised to follow that used in the first volume of Flora Europaea. This has increased the number of families in the Filicales and in consequence certain changes in the key have become necessary. In the flowering plant families name changes are few: Ficoidaceae reverts to Aizoaceae, Papilionaceae to Leguminosae and Hydrocotylaceae is once more incorporated in the Umbelliferae. Interesting additions to the flora include the European *Minuartia recurva*, the new species *Salix hibernica* from Ireland, *Eriophorum gracile* new to Ireland and a Manx record of *Neotinea intacta*, previously only known from Ireland.

Changes in nomenclature are quite numerous but such things are to be expected and endured to the best of one's ability. Even so, there will probably be faint stirrings of resentment at the sight of *Cerastium fontanum* ssp. *triviale* when one realises that only in 1962 (Flora of the British Isles, ed. 2) was it known as *C. holosteoides* and in 1959 (Excursion Flora, ed. 1) as *C. vulgatum*. This, however, is complaint not criticism. The genus *Sarothamnus* reverts to *Cytisus* and *Dactylorchis* is now well-known as *Dactylorhiza*. *Crataegus laevigata* (*C. oxyacanthoides*) will be unfamiliar to many and *Polygonum oxyspermum* (*P. raii* Bab.) might be regarded with some reserve.

While undoubtedly comprehensive with regard to the coverage of 'clear' species, the relegation of many mountain species to the keys appears to be rather uneven although possibly governed by the need for space. The omission of species such as *Dryas octopetala* and *Silene acaulis* from the main text may seem odd to Scottish (and Irish) students bearing in mind their altitudinal range, etc. Most important however, is the fact that whether in the text or keys they are present and most adequately described. One cannot be too grateful to the authors for the second edition of this most invaluable work.

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* Clapham, Tutin & Warburg. Excursion Flora of the British Isles. xxxv, 586 pp. Ed. 2. Published April 1968. C.U.P. Price 30s.

Introducing mycology*. This book, written in a very easily read way, is almost a complete reprint of the 1966 edition with neither major alterations to the main text or illustrative material, although a few changes in headings have been noticed, mainly to fall in line with the agreed endings to classes, sub-classes etc.; changes in arrangement, format and fount are negligible. It certainly is good value for money providing, as Prof. Hawker set out to do, a concise account of the main groups of fungi at a price suitable for University students; it is little wonder that there has been a demand for a reprint. It is refreshing when giving examples of each of the more important families that Prof. Hawker has used British species whenever appropriate; recent research results and modern viewpoints incorporated are a pleasant and most useful addition. It is unfortunate that the brevity of the book, nine of introduction, sixty-four of lower fungi, ten of fungi imperfecti and one hundred for higher fungi, has resulted in having to leave out a discussion of certain ecological and physiological factors e.g. mycorrhiza and lichens.

ROY WATLING.

*Fungi. An Introduction. Lilian E. Hawker. Hutchison University Library, London. First published 1966, reprinted 1967. 216 pp. 1–12 figures. 21–13 cm. Price 13s. 6d.