Aids to the use of taxonomic literature. It is indicative of the importance now being attached everywhere to the proper use of the literature, that two major contributions to this aspect of botany can be reviewed at the same time.

Dr. Frans Stafleu has entitled his book "Taxonomic literature. A selective guide to botanical publications with dates, commentaries and types".* One need not be a seer to prophecy that title and subtitle will soon pass out of all but formal use: we have seen the arrival of "Stafleu", and that title alone will become just as adequate amongst taxonomists as has "Willis" for his Dictionary of Flowering Plants and Ferns.

Primarily this is a compendium of information on the dates of publication of taxonomic botanical literature, when this differed from the date shown on the work itself. Dr. Stafleu has, however, enlarged the scope to include much information on the whereabouts of authors' herbaria, bibliographical references &c. We are also given valuable information when works are or are not, for some special reason, to be taken into account for purposes of formal nomenclature (for example under Gilibert, Guettard, and Necker). This gives the work an added value, especially to the younger generations of taxonomists who have not lived through the period of argument and discussion that led to the decisions recorded.

Dr. Stafleu acknowledges freely his debt to work done in this field by others, especially by Dr. W. T. Stearn and by Mrs. van Steenis-Krusemann whose compilation in Flora Malesiana and later articles in Flora Malesiana Bulletin have been such a great help to working taxonomists. Nevertheless Dr. Stafleu has himself put in a formidable amount of work. Although the main concern is with individual books, some few periodicals are detailed under their original editors (for example, Linnaea under Schlechtendal), and the full analysis of Engler's series Das Pflanzenreich is reproduced from Davis's paper in Taxon. It is invaluable to have all this data brought together in one volume and it is a volume that every taxonomic library must have.

The immense scope of operations at the Hunt Botanical Library is indicated by the appearance of Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum**; for this is, in a sense, a by-product of the larger undertaking Bibliographia Huntiana, which is to catalogue all the botanical literature up to 1840. Consistent citation of the periodicals posed a major problem for that work and the present volume is its massive solution: just over 6 lbs. deadweight.

The problem is one that has long caused trouble in practical taxonomy and it is tempting to pick up this volume and quickly turn the pages to see if it has been solved. The B-P-H solution is, not unnaturally, that of the bibliographer and the taxonomist will not find it wholly acceptable. For instance, the periodical started by Fedde in 1905 as Repertorium specierum novarum has been a continuous entity since that date. In any botanical library it stands in one continuous series on the shelves: yet its minor variations in title during its life-time result in its appearance here under 3 different abbreviations:—Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. (vols. 1–51); Feddes Repert.

*Regnum vegetabile, vol. 52. Pp. xx + 556. 9½ inches. International Bureau of Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature, Utrecht, Netherlands, and Inter-Documentation Company AG, Zug, Switzerland. December 1967. Price £7 10s. 6d. (to I.A.P.T. members £5).

**B-P-H, Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum. Editors G. H. M. Lawrence, A. F. G. Buchheim, G. S. Daniels and H. Dolezol. Pp. 1–1063. 11 inches. Hunt Botanical Library, Pittsburgh. 1968. Price 30 dollars.

Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. (vols. 52–69); Feddes Repert. (vols. 70 +). For practical purposes taxonomists will probably continue to opt for a single short but recognizable compromise for all three phases, such as Fedde, Rep.

Rather a different problem is raised by the publication from the Botanic Garden, Singapore. Here the editors have decided to persist with the abbreviation Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem. although "Straits Settlements" is not only currently inaccurate, and likely to be politically unacceptable, it must soon become geographically meaningless to the younger generations. The bulletin has always been published at Singapore and perhaps the taxonomist will prefer something like Gard. Bull. (Singapore) as providing an intelligible abbreviation throughout. Incidentally its predecessors are not only listed under their proper titles as Agricultural Bulletins (p. 56, nos. 15 and 16), but also appear under the Garden Bulletin entry (p. 389, no. 5) as its first two series.

There are many other instances throughout the volume which witness to the trouble laid down by those who change titles light-heartedly, for though the change may be trivial the bibliographer cannot ignore it. Evidently it is much better to make a clean break and start under an entirely new name with fresh volume numbers rather than to try and improve a title by minor changes. But have not the editors themselves set a problem in the title of their own work? There is an American magazine GSN: Gesneriad Saintpaulia News, the title being variously displayed either under the initial letters or running on from them in small print. This is indexed here under G.S.N., with no cross reference from "Gesneriad . . . ". The title page of this catalogue itself has in heavy black letters B-P-H and underneath in smaller type Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum. Nevertheless the preface refers to it as Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum and then at the second mention adds "(hereinafter designated as B-P-H)". So I wonder what the title of the book I am reviewing really is?

Under whatever name, it is an enormous compendium of information about botanical periodicals. There are some 12000 titles under their accepted abbreviations and for each the full title is given together with the place of original publication, volume numbers and dates and a link reference to its predecessor or successor if there have been any of those slight changes of title discussed above. There are also another 12000 or so entries which are other abbreviations found in the literature but not accepted here: each is followed by the appropriate cross-reference. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Lawrence and his team for making it available.

B. L. BURTT.