Classica Botanica Americana. In this series of reprints edited by Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University, Washington, two further volumes are now issued.

Volume IV*, consisting of two volumes, is a reprint of the 1838–43 edition of Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America. This monumental though unfinished work is too well known for further comment but Professor Ewan's introduction and list of collectors cited in the Flora are useful and informative.

The reprint of Reliquiae Baldwinianae,** published as Supplement II of the series, provides for most of us the first opportunity of reading selections from the correspondence of Dr. William Baldwin, compiled by his life-long friend and fellow medical student, Dr. William Darlington. When first published in 1843, at his own expense, the author himself distributed the few copies printed. Baldwin, naval surgeon and botanist, was born in 1779 and died at the early age of 41, but in this short period and despite ill health, he made various collections during his travels in the southern states and in South America.

The first half of the book consists of letters exchanged between Dr. Henry Muhlenberg and Baldwin. This correspondence, initiated by Muhlenberg in 1811, continued until his death in 1815, and its reading reveals the extent to which mutual friendship and respect for each other developed between these two men, even as they pursued their quest for botanical knowledge. Strange to say, they met only once.

Letters from Baldwin to Darlington written between 1817 and 1819 occupy most of the second half of the book. Here again we learn much of Baldwin's powers of observation, political, social and botanical, yet how can one convey the content of all the correspondence in this volume? At best one can but point to one facet of Baldwin's character in one of his own phrases—"my health has improved—as has always been the case when mind and body have both been actively employed".

Primarily to be read for pleasure, this book contains added interest in Professor Ewan's introduction and chronology of Baldwin's life, and the index to plant names, not contained in the original, increases its value as a reference work.

L. A. LAUENER.

* A Flora of North America. By John Torrey and Asa Gray. 2 vols. xviii, 711 pp, xviii, 504 pp (1838–43). Reprint 1969. 9″. Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London. (Classica Botanica Americana, vol. 4, edited by Joseph Ewan). Price $45.00.

** Reliquiae Baldwinianae. By William Darlington (ed.). 1xix, 346 pp (1843). Reprint 1969. 8½″. Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London. (Classica Botanica Americana, Supplement II, edited by Joseph Ewan). Price $12.50.