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Plant life at its ecological limits. This book* considers plants which grow under special conditions in localities where at least one ecological factor is not optimal. The author uses numerous examples to illustrate the various correlations between vegetation and locality at those places where there is a limit to plant life—both phanerogamic and cryptogamic. After defining his subject, Prof. Lötschert has chapters on the following topics: vegetation of hot springs such as solfataras; vegetation of mobile soils; plants on soils with mineral deficiencies; bog plants; heath vegetation on podsols; mangroves; epiphytic vegetation. As this list of contents shows, there are two aspects of the subject that are not included: the problems of tree limits in mountainous and arctic regions and the limits of vegetation in the arid conditions of desert.

The author deals with his subject clearly and in detail. Many of his examples are from the region of Central America, such as Cuba and San Salvador, where he has undertaken several investigations. The book is well illustrated with diagrams and photographs and there are very useful lists of further references. It can be recommended to all who are interested in this subject; one only hopes that the author will continue his work and write a similar book dealing with those aspects not dealt with in this one.

S.-W. BRECKLE.

* Pflanzen an Grenzstandorten. W. Lötschert. Pp. 167, 124 figs., 1 colour tab., 21 tables. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart. 1969. 42 DM.