A Journal for Rhodesian Succulents.* It is something of a surprise to be able to give a whole-hearted welcome to a new journal in the already crowded field of succulent plants. With *Excelsa*, No. 1, however, the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia have pulled off something of a triumph. They have been fortunate (or have worked hard) to obtain financial backing from industry, and production is first class, with some really superb colour photographs. These they owe in particular to Mr D. C. H. Plowes whose skill as a nature photographer in that part of the world is already well-known. Thirty-one of these photographs illustrate his own article on Stapeliads in Rhodesia. This is the major botanical article, and includes a brief account of all the species of the group known to occur there; but it is good to see that the scope of activities amongst members is wide enough to produce articles on *Aloe* seeds (M. W. Kamstra), on Carl Linnaeus (R. W. S. Turner), and on growing *Lithops* from seed (D. T. Cole). It is interesting to have Thomas Baines's account of "The Great Tree Aloe of Damara Land" reproduced (it was first published in 1866); there are also notes on Aloes in Matabeleland and a check-list of the Rhodesian species (both by E. J. Bullock), and it is appropriate that a journal which takes its name from *Aloe excelsa* should include in its first number a tribute to the man who did so much to spread interest and further research in this genus, the late G. W. Reynolds. This is contributed by the Editor, M. J. Kimberley, who rounds off his exertions in this number with an account of the present state of legal flora-protection in Rhodesia.

One wonders, inevitably, whether the society can keep up this standard. R. B. Drummond contributes a list of Rhodesian succulents which is delightfully unconventional in its scope and if members actively interest themselves in such a wide range of plants, then the journal should not lack interesting material for many a year ahead.

B. L. BURTT

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