to be borne in mind that there are numerous difficulties in writing and organizing *Flora Iranica*. Unlike the completed *Flora Europaea* project there is no large team of regional advisors to check the various stages prior to publication nor, unlike the almost finished *Flora of Turkey* project, is there a small team of botanists employed solely to work on the Flora. *Flora Iranica* is really run and activated by the tireless, and no longer young, K. H. Rechinger with enormous back-up support from his wife Willy. All SW Asiatic botanists owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

The printing, format, type-face and indexing could not be clearer: but at 4060 Schillings (c.£150) it is an expensive paper-back.

I. C. HEDGE

The Flora of Bhutan. The second part of this admirable *Flora of Bhutan*, Vol. 1 Part 2*, has appeared on schedule less than 18 months after the first. In this age of inflationary pricing of Floras, it is a pleasure to remark that in spite of containing 50% more pages than Part I it is only 10% more expensive. It covers the families Phytolaccaceae to Moringaceae in the Engler sequence, and so includes many genera of special Himalayan interest such as *Clematis* (13 spp.), *Berberis* (14 spp.), *Corydalis* (39 spp.) and *Meconopsis* (13 spp.). The treatment of *Corydalis* is especially successful, with a very workable key, seven new species described as a result of work for the Flora, and apparently few problems remaining. In this genus all the species are individually keyed whereas in, for example, *Berberis*, the key is chiefly to groups of species which can then be sorted out by means of the usually neatly diagnostic, comparative descriptions within each group. As the reviewer of Part 1 remarked, this method generally works well, and it also serves to give the user a good idea of the relationships within the genus. The system of comparative descriptions does, however, occasionally have disadvantages and anyone wanting, for example, to get a clear picture of how *Clematis puberula* (which is described only by comparison with *C. gouriana,* which is in turn described only by comparison with *C. connata*) differs from *C. zemuensis* (which is described in the same tortuous way) is in for a difficult time and will, unless he is unusually clear-headed, need to construct his own table of characters.

The annoying convention in Part 1 whereby no species names, only species numbers, were led to in the keys, has fortunately been abandoned. Another small change is that the authorship of each family is now indicated and, for two families, outside authors, N. K. B. Robson for Hypericaceae and E. Campbell for Nymphaeaceae, have been brought in. The botanical bibliography has been brought up to date. The decision to arrange the ten or so parts into three volumes means that although Parts 1 and 2 have separate title and contents pages and indexes, they have continuous page numbers and will comprise rather awkward books when finally bound into volumes. As in Part 1, the well-chosen and exceptionally clear drawings serve both to show the user representative species of many of the genera and to illustrate and explain the morphology and descriptive terminology. Distributions outside the area of the Flora are sensibly not given, but when a species is endemic to the area this is mentioned. Inevitably some of the genera of the subtropical foothills, such as *Litsea* or *Piper*, still require further research, but in this subtropical element the authors have done much to tie in the taxonomy with that of other parts of tropical SE Asia. A strong feature of this Flora is that vernacular names as well as medicinal and economic uses are given for many species. The *Flora of Bhutan* is practical and useful in every respect, from the price and speed of production to the compact format and style of keys and descriptions, and can be taken as a model of the kind of Flora most needed in territories such as this where no modern work is yet available.

A. O. CHATER

*Grierson, A. J. C. & Long, D. G., *Flora of Bhutan, Including a record of plants from Sikkim*. Vol. 1 part 2. 276 pp. (pp. 187–462), 17 full-page plant illustrations. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 1984. ISBN 0 9504270 0. Price £12.00, distributed by Wheldon & Wesley Ltd., Lytton Lodge, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 8TE, England.