Central European pteridophytes. This book* is a comprehensive account of the many species and numerous hybrid ferns and fern-allies found within the geographic area of central Europe. The geography of this region stretches roughly from the southern shores of the Baltic to the northern Adriatic coast, and from approximately 6–18°E. This region does not correspond exactly with political boundaries, but includes East and West Germany, Switzerland, Austria and a part each of extreme northern Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The text consists of species by species entries, giving for each a description as well as a synopsis of its ecology and geographic range. There is extensive treatment of taxonomic synonymies and there are briefer accounts for the hybrids. A widely assorted range of illustrations occurs throughout, including a few colour plates, frond silhouettes, reproductions of previously-published line drawings from various stated sources, and some black-and-white field photographs. The latter are particularly good and excellently reproduced. Indeed, considerable effort seems to have been made to ensure a high quality of printing and illustration throughout.

Despite my own shortcomings in translating much of the German text, it is clear that it is considerably detailed, and coming as it does from an authorship which includes several of central Europe's most eminent pteridologists, can be expected to be authoritative. As the geographic region included contains most of central Europe's main mountain masses, its pteridophyte flora embraces a range of species which present many similarities with those of western Europe as well as numerous fascinating differences. It is in relation to these phytogeographic comparisons that I would particularly recommend it.

The publishers as well as the authors are certainly to be congratulated for producing such a quality work.

C. N. PAGE

Index of Liverworts and Hornworts. Taxonomists familiar with the 'Index Kewensis', 'Index Muscorum' and comparable compendia of plant names will appreciate the problems of working in a group for which no such comprehensive list exists; those working on Hepaticae and Anthocerotae are sadly still in this position, the last complete list being Stephani's 'Species Hepaticarum' published between 1898 and 1924.

The late C. E. B. Bonner sought to fill this gap and in 1962 the first volume of the 'Index Hepaticarum' appeared, covering the genus *Plagiochila*. The Index listed all epithets published in the genus, together with author, place and date of publication, reference (if any) to the 'Species Hepaticarum', information on the type specimen(s) and country of origin. By 1978 a total of nine parts had appeared, up to the letter L, the last two edited by H. Bischler and D. Lamy following Dr Bonner's death in 1976.

Subsequently the project was taken under the wing of the International Association of Bryologists who enlisted an international team of contributors to tackle the remaining genera. The present volume† is the first to appear under the new regime and incorporates some new features, the most welcome being the greatly condensed and much neater format—spacing in previous parts was lavish in the extreme! The typography is more attractive and practical, with botanical names italicized and infraspecific names indented. Equally welcome is the return to hard covers. Other improvements include a critical application of the ICBN as to invalid and illegitimate names, full citation of basionyms, removal of references to 'Species Hepaticarum', but with additional references to Stephani's unpublished 'Icones' in Geneva (a particularly useful feature as no other index of these important drawings is readily available), and a more precise citation of type specimens (lectotypes excluded). These refinements greatly enhance the practical value of the 'Index', without deviating greatly from Dr Bonner's concept, and in general reflect the very high standard of research and editing which has been achieved. Perhaps in the future some of the early parts could be revised to this standard.

**Gustav Hegi, Illustrierte Flora von Mitteleuropa.* Band I, Teil 1; *Pteridophyta* (*Farnpflanzen*). Edited by K. U. Kramer; and compiled by J. Dostál and T. Reichstein with assistance from C. R. Fraser-Jenkins. pp. 309, with 275 figs and 11 plates (9 incolour). Berlin & Hamburg: Paul Parey. DM 228.

†P. Geissler & H. Bischler (eds), *Index Hepaticarum. Volume 10. Lembidium to Mytilopsis*. 352 pp. J. Cramer, Vaduz. 1985. DM 150.