less conspicuous are *Entyloma* spp. producing whitish to brownish blotches on leaves (several families) and *Entorrhiza* spp. that sporulate in swollen roots of species in the Cyperaceae and Juncaceae.

Since 1950 the standard manual for this group has been Ainsworth & Sampson's *The British Smut Fungi*; the present volume* is a replacement to this and includes an additional 16 species. The intervening 34 years has seen several refinements in the approach to fungal taxonomy, many arising from the use of the scanning electron microscope. The nature of spore-wall ornamentation is a major character in the Ustilaginales. Consequently, the new volume includes many more illustrations than its predecessor: most are LM and SEM photographs of spores (ustilospores) but there is also a selection of habit shots.

Each accepted taxon is provided with a concise description, synonymy, reference to other taxonomic treatments, host (British) list, notes on incidence and distribution, and where pertinent a list of published exsiccati and additional comments. Keys are given to the two families and 13 genera, and those for the 88 accepted species are arranged according to host families. There are additional keys to species of the larger genera, as well as one for the 'microspecies' of the *Anthracoidea caricis* group. The keys mainly employ mycological characters but, because all smut fungi are to some degree host-specific, the non-specialist can obtain additional help via the host-parasite index provided. Indeed, as with the rust fungi and powdery mildews, the smut fungi offer a rewarding avenue of study to the phanerogamist.

The authors and the CMI are to be congratulated on their production of this authoritative and practical manual which will undoubtedly be a standard work, not only in the British Isles, for many years to come.

B. J. COPPINS

Much more than a revision. Several times over the last fifteen years I've turned to this book† as a source of information when compiling material on Augustine Henry for exhibitions or for lectures on plant collectors. I never found it wanting though I confess I never managed to read the book in its entirety.

We now have a new edition with many more useful illustrations (mostly of the high-contrast 'archival' type) and with the Chinese names modernized to conform with the Pin-Yin transliteration system. There is, however, much more to this volume than simple revision: new sources are tapped, especially some of Henry's early diaries discovered at Glasnevin and Dr Charles Nelson, well known as a tireless and persistent researcher into Irish botanical and horticultural history, seems to have been involved at every stage of the revision. Dr Nelson also contributes a most useful appendix on the introduction of Henry's plants into cultivation and a list of his plants suitable for Irish Gardens.

Not having time to read the whole book from cover to cover I selected the chapters relating to Henry's life in China to see if the changes had made the book more, or less, readable and useful than the first edition. On readability I feel there is no change: I don't find Sheila Pim's short-sentence style particularly easy but on utility it remains first-rate. This revised and enlarged biography of a fascinating man who turned to plant collecting to alleviate boredom is an indispensible source-book.

R. B. BURBIDGE

*Mordue, J. E. M. & Ainsworth, G. C. *Ustilaginales of the British Isles* (*Mycological Paper* No. 154). Pp. 96 with 172 figs, soft covers. Kew: Commonwealth Mycological Institute. ISSN 27-5522. £14.

†Pim, Shiela. *The Wood and the Trees: A biography of Augustine Henry*. 2nd ed. Pp. 252, 57 illustrations. Hard covers. Boethius Press (Ireland). 1984. £16.80, IR £18.85, US $22. ISBN 0 86314 097 1.