A Hand Book of Field and Herbarium Methods by S. K. JAIN AND R. R. RAO. Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi. 14 × 21·5 cm, i-xvi, 1-157. 1977. Price: Rs. 25.00.

After the interesting publications by Dr. H. Santapau entitled "Instructions for field collectors of the Botanical Survey of India" and "Botanical Collector's Manual", both published during 1955 and meant for the use of the officers of the Botanical Survey of India, it is appropriate that this hand book on field and herbarium methods has now been published. With a Foreword by the Vice-Chancellor of North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and a Preface by the authors, the contents of the book are treated under twelve carefully selected chapters which are the following: Introduction, Herbarium, Botanic Garden, Botanical Collection, Herbarium methods, Taxonomic literature, Phytography, Botanical keys, their use and construction, Botanical nomenclature and type concept, Planning, preparation and publication of scientific papers, Abbreviations and Centres of taxonomic work in India. All these chapters are very well written under different headings making the scope of the book, wide and interesting. The language is simple and cogent. Another redeeming feature is that at the end of each chapter, certain useful references are cited as Suggested Reading. At the same time, some chapters are documented by well-thought-of line drawings and a few photographs.

A novel approach provided in this book is the chapters on Phytography, Botanical keys and nomenclature and these chapters are particularly noteworthy and useful. Further, other interesting chapters are on matters relating to publication of scientific papers, correct usage of abbreviations and information on the centres of taxonomic work in India. These chapters will be useful to all students and research workers interested in taxonomy and floristics. The data presented here are particularly significant because of the great upsurge and stimulus given to this basic discipline of botany which has gained great momentum after the establishment and organisation of the Botanical Survey of India, under the Government of India.

On the whole, this book is a commendable contribution which must find a place in all university and research institutions where Taxonomy and Floristic studies are carried out. To the beginner and the students, it is a useful guide; however the price of Rs. 25.00 for the book is on the higher side, particularly for the students.

K. SUBRAMANYAM