

After botanical excursions to sub-tropical areas in Northern New South Wales, and Southern Queensland, and as botanist on a South Sea Islands expedition with H.M.S. "Challenger" in 1868, during which he collected plants for the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, he settled on his father's newly acquired property in the Tweed River District. There, with two brothers, he grew a wide range of sugar cane varieties, tobacco, maize, opium, cotton, coffee, and peanuts, from 1869 until 1873.

Mr. Pescott's account of von Mueller's removal from office and the appointment of Guilfoyle in 1873, is the most objective that I have read on this controversial issue. His re-discovery of Sayce's plan for the domain, published in 1873, has been reproduced on the inside covers and anyone familiar with Mueller's Garden and the present Gardens, can see how the plan was transposed from the Domain to the Botanic Gardens. The years from 1873 until his marriage in 1889, retirement in 1909 and death in 1912 are well explored by the author in a sensitive and interesting style. The reader may be left with the sense that there is still more information hidden in the family archives. If such untapped sources remain in existence this biography may stimulate them to come to the surface.

—D. M. CHURCHILL

The Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature relating to Vascular plants for 1971. Published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1974.—ix, 394 pp. £14.00 net.

The *Kew Record* seems likely to become one of the major tools of taxonomic botanists working with vascular plants. It is intended that publication will be on a yearly basis.

This work has been compiled in England by the staff of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This account of its contents has been summarized from the Introduction by the Director, Professor J. Heslop-Harrison. It covers literature about flowering plants, gymnosperms and ferns. All papers relevant to taxonomy in the broad sense have been included, but papers in related fields, such as pure genetics, cytology and physiology, with no evident taxonomic significance, have been omitted. Wherever possible the entries have been placed under systematic groups, and the sections on nomenclature, chromosome surveys, chemotaxonomy, anatomy and morphology, palynology, embryology and reproductive biology include only general papers which cannot conveniently be referred to a systematic group. Papers on phytosociology which have usually

been omitted have on occasion been included for botanically poorly known areas.

As many botanists have regional, rather than world-wide interests the world has been divided into 7 major regions (Australia and New Zealand is No. 7) and the code number(s) appear in the left-hand margin for each relevant entry.

All new names, at whatever rank, have been included, with the exception of cultivars. In questions of validity of publication the requirements of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* have been strictly adhered to, and where interpretation of this has been in doubt the suggestions made in *Regnum Vegetabile* 60: 42-57 (1969) have generally been adopted.

New names listed as validly published appear in **bold face**. Names proposed as new but not validly published appear in roman type. Names not proposed as new (i.e. species names under which new infra-specific taxa are named) are given in *italic type*.

The *Kew Record* will overlap largely the coverage of the *Index Kewensis*. It is intended however that the latter will continue publication as a five-yearly cumulation and will increase its scope to cover all names of spermatophytes including those at infra-generic and infra-specific levels.

At first sight the provision of a list of abbreviations used for periodicals seemed unnecessary. However, investigation showed that it included a number of periodicals which were not in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals 1900-1960* 4th ed. (1964). Apart from that the main difference seen was in spelling abbreviations of adjectives used in the title with a capital letter instead of the small letter used in the World List.

—MARY A. TODD

Poisonous plants of Australia. Selwyn L. Everist.
Published by Angus and Robertson, Sydney
and London. 1974—xvi, 684 pp., 64 col. pl., 64
b. & w. photographs, 42 fig. Recommended
price: \$45.00.

Selwyn Everist is director of the Queensland Herbarium and of the botany branch of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He is also a part-time lecturer on poisonous plants and toxicology to veterinary students at the University of Queensland, and for many years has had a close association with