

consulted in conjunction with older journals. There is a useful bibliography and an excellent index.

The black-and-white illustrations are of uniformly high standard, but it is a pity that the difference between a perithecium and a pseudothecium on Fig. 2 is not apparent from the drawing. Particularly valuable are the author's coloured illustrations of many of the species described in the text. It is unfortunate, however, that the text is here marred by a number of printer's errors; the more important of these are *Rutstroemia* for *Rutstroemia* (XI), *Vialeia* for *Vialaea* (XXXIX), *Cryptomges* for *Cryptomyces* (XXIV), and *Caphalothera* for *Cephalothera* (XL). The name of figure Q on Plate VIII is omitted and should be *Octospora leucoloma*, and there is no scale to any of the figures on Plates XIII and XXIII.

This volume is undoubtedly a very valuable addition to our knowledge of this taxonomically difficult and neglected class of fungi. The author has hardly succeeded in presenting the ascomycetes on a "semi-popular" level: his format and the rather high degree of specialisation of the content of his book presume on the reader's part a considerable basic knowledge. At the level at which it is written, however, the product of scrupulous scholarship, it ably fills an outstanding gap in our knowledge. Culberson (1961) has written, "The old polyphyletic 'lichenes' must go and the fungi of the lichens must be intercalated into the mycological arrangement. This noble aim may someday be fulfilled through the hard work of lichenologists and mycologists, but it will never be achieved by tinkering with the rules of nomenclature." There is no mere "tinkering" in Dr. Dennis's book; here is the result of "hard work," stimulating and challenging, as a model to the lichenologist.

P. W. JAMES.

#### REFERENCES

- Culberson, W. (1961). Proposed Changes in the International Code Governing the Nomenclature of Lichens, *Taxon*, **10**, 161.

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#### OBITUARY

We record with deep regret the untimely death in a car accident on June 28, 1961, of Dr. James Murray, late of the Chemistry Department, University of Otago, New Zealand. An obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Lichenologist*.

### **Lichen Study Group**

Members of the Society are welcome to join this group. Those taking part in it circulate parcels containing specimens of particular interest, sometimes with comments on them. Full details may be obtained from Mr. F. H. Brightman, 2 Red Oak Close, Orpington, Kent.

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### **Notice to Contributors**

Contributions on any aspect of lichenology are welcomed. They should be sent to the Editor or Assistant Editor, whose addresses appear inside the front cover. Line drawings should be in Indian ink. References should be given in the Harvard system (name and date in text, names in alphabetical order at end). Titles of journals should be abbreviated as in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*.