

Naturalist's Guide to Wild Life around Newbury. (Newbury: The Borough Museum, 1970.) Pp. 124, 9 photographs, 22 maps, 27 sketches. Price: 60p. (12s.). Paperback.

This interesting book was part of Newbury's contribution to European Conservation Year. Numerous people helped to compile the Guide, which is well illustrated with photographs, maps and sketches by several artists; Robert Gillmor's sketches are particularly outstanding. The lay-out is crisp and makes for easy reading. The style is appealing to the imagination.

The introduction covers the Newbury district before man and is followed by a detailed description of four habitats, chalkland, heathland, woodland and wetland. Specific areas of natural history interest are described in detail in a most concise and attractive manner.

The book is primarily intended for use in the Newbury area; however, there is much of interest to appeal to naturalists living elsewhere. From the mycologist's point of view, only brief mention is made of fungi; nevertheless, the book contains some valuable information as to possible foraging areas and would be a useful addition to a field mycologist's library.

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A Preliminary List of the Families Proposed for Fungi (Including the Lichens). (*Mycological Papers* no. 121.) By W. B. COOKE and D. L. HAWKSWORTH. (Kew: Commonwealth Mycological Institute, 1970.) Pp. 86. Price: £2.

As remarked in the introduction to the list, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature states that family names are to be based on similar systems of priority and validation to those used for genera and species. Few taxonomists, however, attempt to establish the validity of the family names which they use and it is surprising how many family names in common use are, according to the compilers, invalid. Indeed, if the compilers had applied only slightly more stringent criteria, the list of the invalidly published would have dwarfed that of the validly published.

However contentious some of its contents may be, this list provides a departure point from which those who are interested will be able to decide for themselves on the validity of families with which they are concerned.

The Genus Phytophthora de Bary. Diagnoses (or Descriptions) and Figures from the Original Papers. Ed. 2. (*Mycological Papers* no. 122.) By GRACE M. WATERHOUSE. (Kew: Commonwealth Mycological Institute, 1970.) Pp. 59, 21 plates. Price: £2.

This brings up-to-date the 1956 edition, reviewed in these *Transactions* **40**, 175 (1957), by the addition of nine new taxa and thirteen new names. Notes have also been added to indicate if a name is invalid or illegitimate. The format remains the same as in the first edition. In particular the text is reproduced lithographically from IBM typescript, not as in the other *Mycological Papers*.