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often witnessed with delight at the 'Old Vic' and elsewhere"—a remark which suggests that Mr. Law is imperfectly acquainted with London topography.

With such help, it seems strange to read that of Sweet Briar "a few score would still be very welcome; also hundreds if not thousands of Violets—not the scentless giant freaks of importing foreigners—nor the cranky mongrels of experimentalizing, hybridizing, soul-less scientists and enterprising nurserymen, but our own sweet simple English Violets." Mr. Law mars the little volume by writing of this kind, and by a stupid diatribe against "horrid absurd uncouth Latin names": he is better employed in describing the long borders and flat beds, the knott garden, and the old designs, which have been, or will be, carefully followed—the illustrations from various sources are an attractive feature of the book. We venture, however, to doubt whether the hope that on the "wild bank or heath" "every species known in Shakespeare's time will eventually find a place" is capable of fulfilment; this and the gloss "oxlips" appended to Bacon's "het ground set with violets and primroses" suggest that Mr. Law, like Shakespeare, "did not trouble himself much about botany"—what, by the way, does he mean by saying that "Harrison's giant musk has entirely robbed the old common musk of our gardens of its delicious fragrance"? All the same, he has given us a pretty little volume.

The Determination of Lichens in the Field. By W. WATSON, D.Sc.
Reprinted from the 'Journal of Botany.' Taylor & Francis.
28 pp. Price 2s. net.

As the study of Ecology advances, a knowledge that goes beyond Phanerogams becomes imperative. Plant successions and associations may, and often do, include a large and varied number of cryptogams—hepatics, mosses, lichens &c.; and the need of some method whereby these plants may be readily recognised in the field has become insistent, even though detailed knowledge may not be desired. Dr. Watson, in this publication, has met the demand, as far as lichens are concerned, by providing a simple (though artificial) key to the genera and even in some cases to the species, based on easily distinguished characters; helpful notes are also given. His one aim has been that of ready identification, and an examination of the key gives the assurance that he has succeeded. The "complete botanist" should be more or less familiar with all forms of plant life, and Dr. Watson has surely earned his gratitude by enabling him to overcome the preliminary difficulties of lichenology, especially if time and circumstance forbid more extended study.

A. L. S.

BOOK-NOTES, NEWS, ETC.

THERE has long been a muddle in the United States over the common Polypody; and we have to thank Mr. M. L. Fernald for setting the matter straight by his careful investigations of *Polypodium virginianum* and *P. vulgare* (*Rhodora*, xxiv. 1922, pp. 125—