

## Neue Literatur.

Doidge, Ethel M., *The South African Fungi and Lichens to the End of 1945.* — Bothalia V, 1950, 1094 pp., 11 plates, 11 maps. — Pretoria: The Government Printer, price 30 shillings.

Before her official retirement at the end of a long and most distinguished career as mycologist and Principal Plant Pathologist to the Union of South Africa, Dr. Doidge perceived that some years would elapse before her younger successors would be capable of undertaking revisionary and monographic studies of the type for which she was so well known. Characteristically she sought to lessen their disability by providing the important and scholarly work which is the subject of this review.

The main object of the work was to compile as complete a record as possible of the fungi and lichens of southern Africa, which had been cited in the literature of mycology or preserved in the herbaria. But this volume is far more than a mere check-list, useful though that alone would have been. Instead, it is also a record of the hosts and substrata on which these fungi and lichens occur; of their distribution; of their collectors and the history of mycological exploration in southern Africa; of the herbaria in which the listed species may be found; of the literature in which species are described or listed as occurring in southern Africa. In Dr. Doidge's capable hands, this vast amount of information has been classified and arranged, indexed and cross-indexed, so that the maximum use may be made of it. The result of her labours is surely the most complete list yet published of the fungi and lichens of any country, confirmed by literature and herbarium references. A few omissions, particularly of the lichen collections preserved in Continental herbaria, were unavoidable, as the lists were compiled during the war years when access could not be had to these institutions. Otherwise there must be very few omissions indeed. Typographic errors are unfortunately rather frequent, but they are usually unimportant.

The reviewer's own experiences in trying to compile similar records for limited groups in which he has been interested, have led him to marvel at the faithfulness and completeness of Dr. Doidge's work. In some reviews which have appeared of this work it has been emphasised that the lists of species should not be taken at their face-value, especially by those interested in plant distribution. This is because many synonyms have not been connected with each other, and because some wrong identifications have been included. Certainly this is so. For example, the sixty-seven species listed under *Stereum* may be reduced to about twenty-two genuine species on revision. But in a faithful compilation we would not expect or wish anything else, for how could this be otherwise without a revisionary study of every species mentioned? And that, apart from the large groups which Dr. Doidge herself so ably studied and put in order, is precisely the task she has left for her successors. In doing so, she has

also left them the tools to complete the job. Years of work and many workers will be needed, but the foundations of systematic mycology in South Africa have been well and truly laid, while outside South Africa this volume will be recognised as a notable contribution to mycology and lichenology in general.

P. H. B. Talbot.

Zundel, G. L., *The Ustilaginales of the World*. — Contribution Nr. 176 from the Department of Botany, The Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture, 1953, XII + 410 pp. — Preis 4 \$. Zu beziehen durch The Pennsylvania Experiment Station, Room 107, Agriculture Building, State College, Pennsylvania.

In den letzten Jahrzehnten haben sich zahlreiche Mykologen dem speziellen Studium der Ustilagineen gewidmet. Viele, wichtige Publikationen über diese Pilze mit Beschreibungen neuer Arten sind erschienen, die bisher in Saccardo's Sylloge nicht berücksichtigt werden konnten, weil sie erst nach dem Jahre 1920 veröffentlicht wurden. Verf. hat sich auch speziell mit Ustilagineen beschäftigt, viele Arbeiten über diese Pilze veröffentlicht und sich schon im Jahre 1919 entschlossen, eine monographische Studie über die Brandpilze der ganzen Welt zu verfassen. Obwohl das Manuskript schon 1945 vollendet wurde, konnte der Verf. infolge der durch den Krieg eingetretenen Schwierigkeiten die Veröffentlichung seines Lebenswerkes nicht mehr erleben, da er im Jahre 1950 gestorben ist. Erst jetzt ist es den Bemühungen seiner Gattin Mae Bell Zundel und des Direktors der Pennsylvania Agric. Experiment Station, Department of Botany Dr. H. W. Popp gelungen, das für die Ustilagineenforschung wichtige Werk im „Multilithed“-Verfahren zu veröffentlichen.

Der allgemeine Teil behandelt vor allem die Geschichte der Ustilagineenforschung, bespricht die wichtigste Literatur und bringt einen Bestimmungsschlüssel für die Gattungen. Im speziellen Teile werden alle, bis 1945 bekannt gewordenen Brandpilze in alphabetischer Reihenfolge der Arten angeführt. Sie werden beschrieben, die Synonyme zitiert, die bisher festgestellten Nährpflanzen angeführt und kurze Verbreitungsangaben mitgeteilt. Den Schluß bildet ein alphabetisches Register der Nährpflanzen mit Angabe der auf ihnen vorkommenden Brandpilze und ein Index der Synonyme.

Weil das Werk nur in kleiner Auflage erschienen ist, wird allen Interessenten empfohlen, es möglichst bald zu bestellen. Als neueste, die Ustilagineen der ganzen Welt berücksichtigende Monographie, kann es allen Mykologen, die sich mit Ustilagineen-Studien beschäftigen, wärmstens empfohlen werden.

F. Petrak.

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