

REVIEW

WALTHER GOTHAN AND HERMANN WEYLAND—1954. "LEHRBUCH DER PALÄOBOTANIK", 535 Pp. Akademie Verlag, Berlin.

This is a new and completely revised edition of the earlier "Lehrbuch der Paläobotanik" (1919-21) by W. Gothan, now written jointly with H. Weyland. The text is written in the German language, but there are enough illustrations to make it understandable to those who have only some working knowledge of this language.

The subject is treated from the botanical aspect. The text is arranged groupwise—under Thallophyta, Pteridophyta, Articulatae, Lycopodiales, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. There are separate chapters for Fungi, Bryophyta, Water-ferns and Gnetales, which serve to draw attention to the fossil history of these groups which is less known. A good feature is that the Angiosperms are dealt with in detail. Information about the fossil plants of nine orders of monocotyledons, twenty-three orders of Archichlamideae and eight orders of Metachlamideae is given. A chapter on Angiospermous woods will be found useful by

those who are interested in the anatomy of fossil woods. At the end of the book there are useful chapters on characteristic floras and plant geography in different geological periods, ecology and climatology of the earlier floras, and phylogeny and morphogenesis of plants.

The authors have tried to make the text as up to date as possible. Mention has been made of the discovery of fructifications of *Glossopteris* (1952) at the end of the book. However, some omissions become obvious. For instance, under the Gymnosperms mention should have been made of the Pentoxyleae, a new group of gymnosperms established by Sahni (1948). Similarly recent researches in the group Coenopterideae which have changed the old descriptions of some of its members should have also been given.

These are, however, minor criticisms. There is much that is extremely good and commendable in the book which will be useful even to the advanced students.

The paper, printing and binding are of high standard and much useful matter is compressed inside a single volume.

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