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Botanical Latin: History, Grammar, Syntax, Terminology and Vocabulary. William T. Stearn. London and Edinburgh: Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., 1966. xiv, 566pp.(\$14.75)

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lucid paper on rhythms. Some discuss little-explored concepts; Wilson's paper provoked a lively discussion of the social life of insects. The final paper performs the difficult task of furnishing a balanced, yet individual, summary of the symposium. In it, Kennedy successfully destroys the term *klinokinesis*. May it rest in peace!

Anthony Eve.

BOTANICAL LATIN: HISTORY, GRAMMAR, SYNTAX, TERMINOLOGY AND VOCABULARY. William T. Stearn. London and Edinburgh: Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., 1966. xiv, 566pp.(\$14.75)

As W. T. Stearn reminds us in the preface to this attractive and welcome work, "the realm of literature which a knowledge of botanical Latin opens to botanists is a strange barbarous place for classicists; invited into it as an interpreter, a good classical scholar may well feel like Alice meeting Humpty Dumpty through the looking-glass." The same perplexity is experienced by the entomologist; those of us educated in the Latin of Cicero and Pliny are ill equipped to name new species or even to translate Latin descriptions, as biological Latin developed long ago into a stylized form not easily conquered without a specific aid.

Stearn's self-styled "do-it-yourself Latin kit" solves the problem with surprising ease. Although primarily written for the botanist, it is well worth a perusal by the entomologist who faces historical literature with apprehension or simply wishes a meaningful name to bestow upon his latest discovery. Stearn furnishes concise reviews of Latin grammar and syntax, as well as a copious vocabulary. The Greek element in name formation is not forgotten, and directions are given for the solution of such problems as Latinization of native names, anagrams and epithets commemorating persons. There is an excellent index of standard abbreviations used in Latin descriptions. Despite differences between the zoological and botanical codes of nomenclature, all biologists will find W. T. Stearn's *Botanical Latin* to be an invaluable reference work.

R.S.W.

BRIEF NOTICES

LIGHT: PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ACTION. Howard H. Seliger and William D. McElroy. New York and London: Academic Press, 1965. xii, 417pp. \$12.00.

Although the authors include no specific treatment of the attraction of insects by light, there is much in this work to interest the entomologist. Chapters are included on the measurement and characterization