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Review of *Die Infloreszenzen: Typologie und Stellung im Aufbau des Vegetationskörpers*. Zweiter Band. 1 Teil, by Wilhelm Troll. Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1969

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plex books, not for the dilettante; I hope Volume 4 will have a cumulative index.

ROBERT B. KAUL

DIE INFLORESZENZEN. *Typologie und Stellung im Aufbau des Vegetationskörpers. Zweiter Band. 1 Teil.*

By Wilhelm Troll. Gustav Fischer, Jena. xii + 630 p.; ill. 1969.

Inflorescences defy classification, and they are not easy to describe, either. This book is part of the most ambitious attempt yet to do both. Part 1 of this volume is the third of nine sections to be published in four volumes. Pagination is continuous through the two parts of this volume, with the index and citations at the end of the second part. Like Volume 1 this book is superbly illustrated with many drawings and photographs strategically located in the text. Often diagrams and photographs of the same inflorescence are on facing pages, greatly aiding interpretation. [See *Q.R.B.*, 41(2): 216, 1966, for review of Volume 1.]

The entire book is a systematic description of monotele inflorescences — panicles, thyrses, and their derivatives, whose axes terminate in flowers — and it has a wealth of information unavailable elsewhere. Only dicotyledons are included because monocotyledon inflorescences, according to Troll, lack truly terminal flowers. Readers are going to need Volume 1 close at hand for definitions and explanations of the many terms, concepts, and abbreviations.

Not everyone will find the extreme typological approach appealing, but with so many examples of the basic types and their modifications the reader will have little difficulty following Troll's system. Serious students of inflorescences will find Volume 1, with its exposition of Troll's principles of morphology and typology of inflorescences in general, indispensable. Succeeding volumes, including this one, are devoted to examples. These are com-