where we have not yet to inherit an overwhelming legacy of discarded junk and destroyed habitat, but are nevertheless prone to the common failing of circumventing problems by moving on to new ground.

Unfortunately the sociologist is not altogether sanguine about the flexibility of human institutions, and it is left to the final joint paper by a wildlife ecologist and an anthropologist to indicate some of the ways in which solutions can be sought. Entitled “Freedom and Responsibility: an Environmental Dilemma”, this is in many respects the most stimulating and the most optimistic contribution to the symposium. The emphasis on cycling and re-use of natural resources will have an obvious appeal to any forester, although the figure of 40% of current consumption for Germany's re-use of salvaged newsprint should cause some of our forecasters to sit up. It also has relevance for our pulp and paper exports; but a more cogent point is that in all the recent debates about increasing export earnings by developing local processing industries, anti-pollution measures have never been mentioned as one of the costs involved. Primary production causes but a fraction of the pollution that accompanies most phases of processing.

However, the authors are inclined to be more hopeful about the effect of public pressure on large image-conscious corporations than on the small businessman of a fully competitive economy. This carries the whole environmental dilemma back to its only final solution — a complete reorientation of economic values: "To those who claim that attitudes among corporate leaders will not mesh with those of society's long-term environmental needs, we raise one question: what sorts of values are being carried into the corporate technos true ture by the current crop of university graduates?" It is less than three years since the New Zealand education system introduced a proper ecological perspective into school curricula, which probably means that it will be another two or three decades before we have built-in safeguards against such errors as the Manapouri commitment or an adequate public understanding of the destruction wrought by misplaced pastoral development. How much longer will it be before we rid ourselves of conspicuous consumption, planned obsolescence, the measurement of status in terms of material possessions, and the whole myth of continuous economic "growth" based on continuing depletion of natural resources?

Perhaps not until we have reached the state where "one need not proceed much further to suggest that economics might be classed as a branch of ecology" (p. 69). This possibility holds some hope, after all.

D.S.J.


For too long most of us have tended to lump the monocotyledons into grasses and others, if we manage to do this. Although the names in Cheeseman's Manual, published in
1925, are familiar to most of us, it has long been obvious that the treatment was incomplete and that the nomenclature needed revision. This long awaited addition to the Flora should help to simplify the problems of getting to know this group of plants. All the monocotyledonous families are included apart from the grasses, which regrettably could not be completed in time. The large number of good diagrams, and pages of a more reasonable thickness, should ensure that this volume will be more readily used than Volume I.

The more limited scope of this volume, as compared with the first, has given the authors greater opportunities for the examination of live material, much of which was supplied by a large number of enthusiasts throughout the country. This, in part at least, has been responsible for the increase in the number of species and varieties recognized, from 277 and 66, respectively, in 1925, to 399 and 18 in 1970. This also, presumably, has helped to limit the number of times it has been found necessary to add the cryptic footnotes too often found in Volume I such as “this group is an ill-resolved complex” or that “further study is required”. The number of diagrams also gives an indication of the degree of confidence the authors have in the different entities.

The diagrams are very well done, particularly those of the orchids. However, some of the figures do not always illustrate comparative material and the lack of a scale in some instances may be rather confusing.

The keys are relatively straightforward once a working knowledge of the terms in the glossary has been achieved. The footnotes supplied as an aid to the ready distinction between closely related or morphologically similar species in the Cyperaceae and Juncaceae will be greatly appreciated by most users.

The section on chromosome numbers is a welcome addition. It includes the indigenous conifers, dicotyledons and monocotyledons. It is surprising to note, however, that so many gaps still exist even with respect to the species so recently worked on and treated in this volume. This is particularly so when it is realized that chromosome numbers are regarded as basic in any work carried out overseas in which the status of any entity is considered important.

The “Annals of Taxonomic Research” have been greatly expanded and with the subject index form a most useful addition to the literature.

Initial impressions of Flora II are very good and it is to be hoped that it will be widely used. It must be with considerable satisfaction that Dr Moore has been able to see publication of this second volume before her retirement. With Flora I, this volume marks the culmination of a long and fruitful career.