

omitting the figures in those spaces which correspond to districts within which the species had not been ascertained to grow, a tolerably exact notion of its topographical range may be instantly conveyed to the eye of a reader. Those botanists who are sufficiently interested in such investigations, may give greater precision to the diagram by colouring the spaces, in accordance with the details of distribution given in the text for each species. This course will be more especially requisite with the scale of altitudes; since the mere elevation of the highest hill of the district cannot prove at what particular height the species in question has been ascertained to grow, although it may often show that a given species is to be found in districts including lofty hills. In each copy of the work, one or more of the diagrams will be so coloured, by way of example; but the manual labour of applying colour to all of these, would be far too great; while the cost of engraving equally prevented the substitution of printed shades or markings in the diagram, the introduction of which would have necessitated the cutting of a separate block for each of 1200 species."

Indeed, nothing here is wanting that labour and industry, extensive travels and acute observation can furnish; and if carried out to its completion, Mr. Watson's book will serve as a model (as indeed it does now, so far as it goes) for all other works on this interesting subject.

SALICTUM BRITANNICUM EXSICCATUM; containing dried specimens of the BRITISH WILLOWS, edited by the REV. J. E. LEEFE, M.A. Fasc. 1, folio, Saffron Walden, 1842.

In the first volume of this Journal, (p. 418), we announced that Mr. Leefe had in preparation a series of specimens of British Willows, of which the present is the first fasciculus. The author, in his introductory remarks, modestly alludes to the above notice, as "indicating more extended objects

than the editor wishes now to be understood has been aimed at." But, on referring to that notice, we are satisfied that the most sanguine expectations we thus expressed, are here fully realized: or if any expression requires to be modified, it is that "the author only wishes to retain as species such as afford readily ascertainable characters, rejecting those which exhibit intermediate forms," &c. Mr. Leefe's views are no doubt more correctly stated in the present work. "The labels are intended only to supply a correct set of names for the specimens—this, alone, being no easy matter, when it is considered that the descriptions, to which the plants must be referred, are very often rather representations of forms than species, together with occasional synonyms and remarks. Any attempt, however, to define the limits of specific variation has been abandoned; because the editor feels strongly, that until the value of the characters on which specific distinctions are founded, has been ascertained by experiment, the limits so assigned could only be looked upon as guesses at truth. At the same time, with a view to promote inquiry, he has prefixed to the collection, a table, in which such Willows as he thinks are not species are arranged as varieties;—but in doing so, he wishes to be clearly understood, that he does not profess to decide dogmatically, but merely to express a suspicion, that in order to facilitate the study of the *Salices*, it is desirable to combine, instead of any longer separating the various forms; not indeed passing them by without notice, but reducing them to what appear their proper ranks. It is true, that in a paper printed in the *Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh*, the editor expressed rather a strong opinion respecting the distinctness of certain species so called, and this will probably be the conclusion arrived at by most persons to whom those of any one locality are accessible; but an inspection of a large series of specimens from several localities, has convinced the editor that his views were in some degree too contracted."

Mr. Leefe now enters upon his useful task with a mind

perfectly free from prejudice, and has given a most beautiful and useful series of specimens in the present fasciculus, carefully selected and well dried, neatly fastened on white paper, and attached to the stout leaves* of the fasciculus, which are of a dark grey colour, and, beneath, is the label, with the synonyms, time of flowering, &c., and, generally, some useful remarks. Forty-nine folios are thus occupied, and the synoptical table contains the following species and varieties.

A. PEDUNCULATÆ.

*Amenta terminalia serotina. *S. reticulata*, *L.*

S. herbacea, *L.*

** Amenta lateralia coetanea . *S. pentandra*, *L.*

S. amygdalina, *Sm.*

S. triandra, *L.*

S. contorta, *Crowe.*

S. Hoffmanniana, *Sm.*

S. triandra, *Curtis.*

S. undulata, *Ehrh.*

B. SESSILES.

*Antheræ defloratæ nigræ . . *S. Helix*, *L.*

S. purpurea, *L.*

S. purpurea, *Sm.*

S. Woollgariana, *Borr.*

S. ramulosa, *Borr.*

S. Lambertiana, *Sm.*

S. rubra, *Huds.*

S. rubra, *Sm.*

S. Forbyana, *Sm.*

**Antheræ defloratæ luteæ. . *S. viminalis*, *L.*

S. viminalis, var. *intricata.*

S. viminalis, var. *stipularis.*

S. stipularis, *Sm.*

* The price of the fasciculus thus beautifully prepared is only £1 :— with the specimens loose, 10s.

- S. Smithiana*, Willd.
S. Smithiana, E. Bot.
S. holosericea, Hook.
S. ferruginea, And.
S. acuminata, E. Bot.
S. cinerea, L.
S. cinerea, Sm.
S. aquatica, Sm.
S. oleifolia, Sm.
S. aurita, L.

Such specimens, collected chiefly by Mr. Leefe and Mr. Ward, of Richmond, Yorkshire, who has long made the willows his peculiar study, and authentically named with the valued and valuable assistance of M. Borrer, cannot fail to be of the utmost use to every student and lover of British plants, and highly to the honour of the author. As may be supposed, it is only a limited number of copies of such a work that can be prepared, and it will reflect little credit on the botanists of this country, if they allow these to lie long in the hands of the publishers; Mr. Bowman, of Richmond, Yorkshire, and Messrs. Whittaker and Co., London.

SPECIMENS OF SCOTTISH PLANTS.

SINCE the days of Dickson, and Don, and Drummond, we know of no one who has ransacked the plains and the hills, and the glens and the mountains of Scotland more successfully than Mr. Wm. Gardiner, of Dundee: and it is not a little remarkable that Don and Drummond also were inhabitants of the same district, the immediate vicinity of Dundee. From specimens that Mr. Gardiner has communicated to us, and especially from some cryptogamous ones that we have lately received from him, we know that he is not only very successful in his researches, but possesses the art of preserving his specimens with great skill and neatness, whether of