

Gardeners and agriculturists with access to this book will be helped to recognize the many insects which are injurious to plant life in either their larval or adult stages.

At the end of each chapter is a brief synopsis of the Families embraced in the Order concerned, while terminating the book is a general index. There are many black and white illustrations in the text, one to almost every page, and all are very good. The seventy-five plates, however, cannot be praised, for while the five in colour are quite good, the majority of the half-tones are of poor quality—a pity, especially where the subjects are of particular interest. There is a misprint in the generic name of the red locust, depicted on colour plate II: it should be *Nomadacris* not *Normaderis*. The print is clear and the binding serviceable, with the title boldly showing on the spine—a good feature when a volume is being looked for on a library shelf.

L. C. B.

GOLD DISH AND KAVA BOWL. By JOHN A. FRASER. J. M. Dent and Sons. 18s.

When one reads of people searching for gold there come to mind the mad days of the Klondyke, and the unscrupulous characters and violent crimes usually associated with a gold rush. In *Gold Dish and Kava Bowl* we have a very different picture. Here we meet men who, like their fathers before them, have spent their lives quietly prospecting and mining for gold, often with little material gain, but with a deep regard for their homeland and their way of life.

John Fraser unfortunately died in 1946, and Terence O'Brien has been responsible for editing the original manuscript and selecting the photographs. The author tells us first of his childhood home at Wandiligong in the south-eastern corner of Australia. He was always a miner at heart, and he soon acquired an observant eye for the flowers and trees and structure of his country. He tells us pleasantly and easily a good deal about the origin of gold reefs and beds, and the methods used by prospectors and miners in their laborious and often unrewarding task.

Most of the scene, however, is set in Fiji, where he spent several years prospecting on Viti Levu, the largest island of the group. In the course of his work Fraser travelled to every part of the island. There emerges a very happy picture of the vigorous, lighthearted Fijians, or Kai Vitis as they describe themselves, and their customs, seen through the eyes of a man who had

obviously a generous and sincere nature. Although this is not a book about wild life, the author describes the vegetation and some of the birds he saw in an observant and lively way. The few snakes which once existed in Fiji were eliminated by the imported mongoose.

Wherever Fraser and his companions went they were received with generous hospitality in the villages and entertained at a ceremonial drinking of kava. Thus the prospecting dish and the wooden kava bowl came to symbolize days of hard toil and friendly welcome in this beautiful island.

There is a useful map at each end of the book, and the index is a good one.

T. R.