

BRITISH WOODLAND TREES. By H. L. Edlin, B.Sc. (London: B. T. Batsford. 12s. 6d.)

There can be nothing but praise for this book. It is attractively written, profusely illustrated, well printed and contains a mass of information about trees, their identification, history, botany and growth as well as notes on the quality and uses of their timbers. Forestry is a diffuse subject and even the professional forester may well be appalled at the array of treatises in a forestry library which confront the seeker of knowledge. Here we have in a handy volume information which could only be found by much delving in large and expensive works, making this a useful book for students, practising foresters and all nature lovers.

A chapter is devoted to each tree genus and in it are set down the botanical description of each species, its cultivation in nursery and forest, its silvicultural characteristics and the economic uses of its wood. All the trees grown in woods, parks and gardens are treated. An account is given of the origin of exotics and their introduction into cultivation.

Mr. Edlin gives a full account of the growing of common species. He describes methods of collecting and sowing seed, treatment in the nursery, planting out and thinning. The needs of the species in soil and situation are mentioned. Nothing is said, however, about their behaviour when exposed to persistent wind. In most parts of Great Britain and Ireland the stunting effects of constant wind on certain species is an important factor and it seems strange that this point should be omitted.

There are useful keys to the identification of species, based on buds, leaves, flowers, fruits and bark. These are a valuable guide at all seasons and, used in conjunction with the admirable plates, photographs and line drawings, enable accurate identifications to be made.

There is a glossary of botanical and technical terms.