

T. B. FLOWER'S LIST OF READING PLANTS

By the late J. S. ATTWOOD and J. S. L. GILMOUR.

Some confusion appears to exist as to the correct title, author and date of the work in which Thomas Bruges Flower published his "List of some of the more interesting plants indigenous to the vicinity of Reading." In Druce's *Flora of Berkshire*, p. cxcii, the following entry occurs:—"Flower, T. Bruges, F.L.S., A List of plants seen about Reading, published in Robertson's *Environs of Reading*, 1843." On page clxix of the same work, however, Druce says "In 1845 a guide to Reading was published under the title of 'J. C. Robertson's *Environs of Reading*'." In Britten & Boulger's (1931, *Biographical Index of British Botanists*, ed. 2, 110, and in 1900, *J. Bot.*, 38, 32) the date is also given as 1845. In the *Catalogue of the Kew Library* the list is cited as follows:—" [Flower, Thomas Bruges.] A List of the more interesting plants . . . of Reading [from W. Fletcher's 'Tour round Reading,' 1840] 8vo.," while on the actual copy of the list at Kew, the following note is written in ink "Drawn up by Mr T. B. Flower from observations made during a visit to Reading in 1841, and published in No. 5 of the Tour Round Reading, by . . . ?."

In order to clear up this confusion we have examined a complete set, in the original wrappers, of the work in question (now in Mr N. D. Simpson's library). It was first issued in parts. No. 1 was entitled "A Tour Round Reading, Being a Guide to its Environs, with Historical and Pictorial Sketches," by W. Fletcher. There is no date given, but as, on the back of the wrapper, annuals for 1841 are advertised, and as there is an advertisement in No. 3 dated Jan. 1st, 1841, it can be deduced that No. 1 was published in 1840. On the front of the wrapper is printed "To be completed in ten numbers." Only six numbers, however, were actually published. No. 2 bears the same title and author's name as No. 1. No. 3 is entitled "A Tour Round Reading, With Historical and Pictorial Sketches," "Begun by W. Fletcher, Continued by Edward J. Nieman." No. 4 bears the same title as No. 3 but Fletcher's name is omitted and the work described as being "By Edward J. Nieman." No. 5 (in which Flower's list appears on pp. 169-171) is entitled simply "A Tour Round Reading," and is "Edited by J. G. Robertson." No. 6 is entitled "The Environs of Reading," "by J. G. Robertson."

In addition to the issue in separate numbers, described above, Nos. 1-5 were issued bound in one volume entitled "The Environs of Reading," edited by J. G. Robertson, Vol. 1, dated 1843. On the cover it is stated that the work was "to be completed in two parts." The second part was presumably to consist of Nos. 6-10, but of these, as stated above, only No. 6 appeared.

Flower's list, therefore, appeared in two distinct forms; firstly in No. 5 of the serial publication, entitled "A Tour Round Reading," and secondly in Part I of "The Environs of Reading," 1843, both edited by J. G. Robertson. No. 5 is not dated, but it contains an advertisement in which is quoted an undated review, from the *Reading Mercury*, of the *Berkshire Guide, Almanac and Advertiser*. The Editor of the *Mercury* has very kindly searched his files for this review and has informed us that it appeared in two parts in two successive issues of the paper, dated August 6th and 13th, 1843. As the issue in one volume of Nos. 1-5 is dated 1843, it is clear that No. 5 must have appeared between August 13th, 1843, and the end of the year.

When citing to Flower's List in full, therefore, it is suggested that it should be described as follows:—

FLOWER, T. B. "A List of Some of the more Interesting Plants indigenous to the Vicinity of Reading," in *A Tour Round Reading*, No. 5, pp. 169-171, edited by J. G. Robertson, [1843]; also issued in *The Environs of Reading*, part 1, pp. 169-171, edited by J. G. Robertson, 1843, which consists of Nos. 1-5 of *A Tour Round Reading* bound in a single volume.