BOOK REVIEWS

THE SELECTION, BREEDING, AND CULTURE OF SUGAR BEET SEEDS IN THE SOVIET UNION

By “The Sakharotrest” (The United Sugar Industry of the Soviet Union). Distributed by the Amtorg Trading Corporation, 165 Broadway, New York City.

Ever since the outstanding Russian work on soil classification, made public a few years back through Professor Glinka’s book, scientific men in America have had their eyes on Russia. The pamphlet here called to the attention of American agronomists rather than reviewed, does not purport to compare in either scope or importance with Glinka’s work, but it does present a new angle worthy of consideration by all interested in sugar beets or in sugar-beet breeding.

Certain difficulties in translation have considerably obscured what seems to have been a good plant-breeding exposition in the original Russian. The vigorous (and we might almost say, courageous) attack on sugar-beet improvement by inbreeding attracts the reader’s interest. Isolation cages for entire plants and also for single branches seem to have been used consistently, and according to the Russian data, with excellent results, both as to uniformity and as to sugar yield.

The description of the really thorough testing of strains subsequent to their production by inbreeding impresses the careful reader that here is the way sugar-beet breeding ought to be done.

About forty half-tones and a half-dozen charts add to the attractiveness of the pamphlet. Lack of legends that really describe, and the obvious mistranslation of a few, somewhat weaken the publication. (G. S.)

THE SOILS OF CUBA


This book and accompanying map give the results of the first attempt at the differentiation of the soils of any tropical country to any extent other than a broad general description without a map. The differentiation is based on the same criteria as those used in the U. S. Soil Survey.

After an introduction in which the most probable relations between soil characteristics and the problems of sugar production in Cuba are discussed, the predominant characteristics of Cuban soils are described followed by a description in considerable detail of the various important groups of related soils and the soil series of which each group is composed. This chapter includes 65 of the 400 pages in the book. Chapters IV to VII inclusive constitute the most important part of the book and cover 200 pages. These chapters deal with the details of soil character and distribution by geographic