BOOK REVIEW
THE STORY OF LINEN

By William F. Leggett. Brooklyn; Chemical Publishing Co., Inc.
103 pages. 1945. $2.75.

The history and economic aspects of linen production are traced through the ages in this interesting little volume. The author's skill and style make the book especially readable despite the fact that his viewpoint is that of the textile technologist. Agronomists may deplore the fact that little is presented concerning the details of early flax culture. The chapter on flax might have been strengthened by the inclusion of somewhat more material on the agronomic aspects of the production of the crop. Incidentally, an error crept in when flax seed was described as green in color.

The book should be welcomed as a definite contribution by agronomists who are interested in the utilization of fiber crops. Persons who teach or those who concern themselves with the history of crop growing may readily profit from the fruits of Mr. Leggett's research.

Although the greater part of the book deals with the fabrication of linen and its human implications, other bast fibers such as ramie, hemp, sisal, and jute receive brief treatment under the heading of addenda. The bibliography has merit because it includes sources of information not commonly drawn upon by agronomists. All in all this book is distinctly worthwhile.—H. B. Hartwig.