BOOK REVIEWS

DE RE RUSTICA (ON AGRICULTURE)


Students of agricultural history will welcome this book which is printed with the Latin text on one page and the English translation opposite. Numerous footnotes add greatly to its value in research. Translations of the 12 books of Columella's De Re Rustica will be published in three volumes; only the first volume containing the first four of the Columella books has thus far been printed. The remaining two are expected to appear after the war.

A considerable number of translations of the works of Columella have been made in various languages including German, French, and Swedish. However, the only one covering the 12 books in English was published in 1745, has been out of print, and has been available to the public only in relatively few libraries. This modern translation by Ash, written as it is in beautiful English style, should be particularly valuable to teachers of agricultural subjects in schools and colleges. The book provides information whereby the student may readily compare Roman thought with current ideas regarding soils, their management and the adaptation of crops to different environments. It provides an excellent background covering social and economic ideas prevalent in Italy and environs nineteen hundred years ago. This publication, which is being sold at a popular price, should do much to further an appreciation of the work of a great Roman writer who quotes freely from still earlier Roman literature concerned with agriculture and other technical subjects.—M. S. Anderson.

ROOT DISEASE FUNGI


In this book, the author has done a good job of summarizing, coordinating, and analyzing the numerous individual contributions to the study of root diseases that have appeared in recent years. The book is the first to deal with this group of diseases in such a comprehensive manner. The author's critical analysis of the subject has led to the formulation of a number of broad principles and generalizations that will be helpful to research workers and teachers alike. When such generalizations are made they are printed in italics for emphasis, a feature that increases the usefulness of the book as a reference for workers in related fields.

There is more to the book than the brief title would indicate because its primary emphasis is not upon the fungi which cause root diseases, but rather upon the relationship between these fungi and