BOOK REVIEW

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST


THIS report summarizes the findings of a scientific advisory mission of the Middle East Supply Center, an agency of the British and United States governments which dealt with wartime supply and production for the civilian population of the Middle East. The report briefly describes the agriculture of 14 countries and suggests means for improvement.

The author discusses "the exceedingly difficult problem of revising land settlements and land tenures which is, beyond question, the greatest obstacle to any permanent improvement in the Middle East." He shows that certain solutions applicable elsewhere are made ineffectual by the land tenure system, the fragmentation of holdings, and strip cultivation. However, scientific and educational efforts will increase production and aid the farmers as has been shown in a number of settlements and communities, although, in the author's opinion, some of the indigenous systems of tillage and cropping may prove to be superior to supposedly more advanced practices.

Doctor Keen's suggestions and observations in this summary will be valuable to any agriculturist interested in the Middle East.—R. J. Muckenhirn.

EMULSION TECHNOLOGY, THEORETICAL AND APPLIED: A SYMPOSIUM


This volume is a reprint of papers presented at a symposium of the Leather Trades Chemists in England, with the addition of several later articles by American contributors. In this, the second edition, a new section by G. M. Sutheim on the theory of emulsions with a classified list of emulsifying agents has been added. For the reader who wishes to become acquainted with the general properties of emulsions before considering technical applications, Dr. Sutheim's section, which is printed last, should be read first. It gives a very clear account of the historical sequence and the advantages and shortcomings of the different theories of emulsification. Unfortunately, the classified list of emulsifying agents, in itself a very useful feature, has been set upon the pages in such a way as to cause the maximum annoyance to the user.

The list of sections is as follows: