BOOK REVIEW

FOREST SOILS AND FOREST GROWTH

By S. A. Wilde. Waltham, Mass.: The Chronica Botanica Co.;

THIS is the first book on forest soils in this country and, so far as
is known to the reviewer, the first in the English language any-
where. The author has covered the subject in a thorough manner and
is very successful in showing the relationship between the soil and the
forest and its management. The historical introduction in Chapter I
is brief but adequate, considering that each subsequent subject head-
ing has its own historical references.

The broad general subjects covered include soil genesis, the genetic
soil groups of the world, forest cover, physical and chemical proper-
ties of the soil, soil organisms, forest humus, soil-forest types, forest
soil survey, tree planting, soil amelioration, silvicultural cuttings, pro-
ductivity, and various phases of soil nursery management. Of the 20
chapters, the last five deal with nurseries.

Objection may be raised to the use of such uncommon terms as
“grood”, “melanized”, and “charral” soils. Whether they will find a
permanent place in America soils literature, or will be eventually
abandoned by the author, only time will tell. Professor Wilde’s
familiarity with European work, particularly Russian and Czech, is
reflected in the extensive bibliography.

The book is written in a clear, moderately technical style, and is
not difficult reading. Good use is made of sketches, and the plates are
well chosen. The printed volume is a vast improvement in appearance
and legibility over the two previous mimeographed editions, and
includes a number of important changes in content and arrangement.

Originally intended for use by “a rather heterogeneous group of
students, including graduates and upperclassmen in soils, forestry,
botany, game management, and landscape architecture”, the book
in its present form should prove equally useful to practicing foresters,
ecologists, nurserymen, and soil conservationists.—H. A. LUNT.