tage of giving the student a general birds-eye view or conception of a soil at the start. This would help to stimulate the student’s interest in what follows by making it easier to relate certain details to the soil as a whole.

Professional foresters, ecologists, and soil scientists will find this work a valuable source of forest soils knowledge, but practical foresters, nursery managers, rangers and others confronted with local problems will find it difficult to assimilate and apply the information as presented.

As a beginning text in soils, it would seem that some of the discussions, especially in relation to the scope of the book are rather advanced. For example, Chapters 2, 3, and 7 appear to be a little heavy for this type of text. Would it not have been better to have discussed, at least briefly, the function of the nutrient elements in plant growth than to have placed so much emphasis on minerals and rocks?

Because of the extensive list of references given at the end of each chapter, and the advanced and excellent nature of some of the discussions, it would seem that the book might serve better as a reference book than as a beginner’s text; or it might be used quite advantageously for this latter purpose if supplemented with the needed lectures or discussions.—Emil Truog.

BASIC BOTANY


In writing this book which is intended as a text for an introductory course in botany, the author has approached the subject from the standpoint of the unifying influence of protoplasm. As stated in the preface, “physiology, anatomy, morphology, taxonomy, genetics, and ecology are all included, but not in an altogether traditional order. Leaves, stems, and roots are discussed in rather full detail, but as integral parts of the plant, which is a functional as well as a morphologic unit.”

In so far as possible plants with which the student is likely to be familiar have been chosen for illustrative material. An effort has been made to instill in the student’s mind the scientific approach to the solution of botanical problems. The book is profusely illustrated and contains an index.—R. J. Garber.

NATURE AND PREVENTION OF PLANT DISEASES


The book is intended as a text for college students and particularly for those students who take only the one course in plant pathology. Emphasis is placed on how to recognize, understand, and prevent plant diseases. To this end, the more important diseases of crops grown extensively in the United States are discussed together with the latest generally approved methods of control. The text contains a