ELEMENTS OF SOIL CONSERVATION


This book, according to the author, "Seeks to brief for the student the more important aspects of the serious problem of soil wastage and methods of soil conservation." Seven of the 22 chapters deal with the causes, extent, rate, and effects of soil erosion; 7 with control measures applicable to crop and pasture land and stream banks; and 6 with important related topics such as water spreading, drainage, irrigation and management of woodlands and wildlife. The remaining two chapters describe the United States programs for soil conservation and farm planning.

Soil conservation practice is called "the youngest of the major agricultural sciences" by the author. He gives it credit not only for the benefits from direct erosion control measures, such as contour strip cropping or terracing, but also for those obtained from more efficient fertilization, tillage, and pasture management introduced as part of an over-all plan for a farm. The informed reader will be astonished to find that only seven lines (not containing the word "soils") are used to describe the activities and contributions of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and that no mention is made of that Bureau's splendid research in soil science, fertilizers, irrigation, and dry-land farming.

"Elements of Soil Conservation" is general in character, dealing with broad principles of erosion control rather than specific recommendations for local areas or soil conditions. Several of the chapters on control measures are notably clear and informative. This book is a brief, well-illustrated review of the subject and will interest the general reader, beginning students in soil and crop sciences, and those seeking a broad acquaintance with principles and practices.—R. J. Muckenhirn.