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Book Reviews

LAND OF THE CROOKED TREE


This book is well worth the reading for every agronomist if for no other reason than the fact that it presents a vivid account of the end of an era in American agriculture—the era of hand labor. It is a charmingly told story, "Not strictly autobiography nor yet fiction". As a small boy the author and his family moved from Iowa to Little Traverse, Michigan, the "Land of the Crooked Tree", soon after the territory was opened up by the government for settlement by white men. The book is an account of the pioneer days of that area as recaptured by the author from his boyhood memories.—J. D. Luckett.

THE EARTH’S FACE AND HUMAN DESTINY

By Ehrenfried Pfeiffer. Emmaus, Pa.: Rodale Press. 183 pages, illus. 1948. $2.75.

The author makes an ardent plea for the preservation of our soil, forests, streams, and natural landscape. He points out how our age which has been progressive in the arts, science, industry, and business has been woefully remiss in attention to the laws of nature, resulting in a wasting of the natural resources and destruction of a healthful and pleasant environment. The scope of the book is well indicated by the following chapter headings: Landscapes; Problems of the Plain; Problems of the Mountains; Problems of the Woods; Urban Civilization, Industry and the Landscape; Park and Garden, Beauty and Utility; Some Basic Biological Principles; Our Past, Present, and Future Shaping of Environment; Landscape Consciousness and Man’s Responsibility.

The aim and purpose of the book are most commendable. It should be not only of great help and inspiration to those working directly in the interest of conservation and a more pleasant environment in which to live, but should also help to provide an urge and desire on the part