Book Reviews

FUTURE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY: A PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS


In the preface of this book the authors acknowledge the help of certain national committees but absolve them of responsibility for the conclusions reached or recommendations made. Following a brief chapter on "the food and agricultural problems that face the United States and the World in the next ten years" the book is divided as follows: Part I, the situation in 1947; Part II, Parts of the problem; Part III, programs and Part IV, execution of the programs. The book concludes with three very brief appendixes (fisheries, fibers, and timber) and an index.

Most of the discussion centers around agricultural economy as it relates to food consumption and nutrition, primarily in the United States, and briefly in other countries. In the final chapters the authors present elements of existent agricultural programs and fit them into an integrated whole. The roles of such groups as labor, processors, distributors, consumers, producers, and civil servants in executing such an integrated program are discussed in some detail. The authors admit that the program in its entirety could not be adopted immediately, but they believe that if the essential features as outlined could be adopted by the end of the next ten years, the country would be well on its way toward a solution of its food and agricultural problems.

Agronomists, involved as they are in production problems will find the book interesting and stimulating. Some will find such a statement as occurs on page 72 refreshing in that it bluntly acknowledges the crux of the food-population problem in certain regions. "Checking the rate of population growth will therefore in many countries be a fifth way of making progress toward better living, and more important than all the first four together." Some agronomists may think parts of the program suggested in Chapter 21 somewhat involved and unworkable. The authors themselves foresee the possible need for alteration and adjustment in carrying out details and fitting them into a national economy. All will agree that an agricultural production program that maintains a high level of nutrition for the general population and at the same time assures the farmer a fair share in the prosperity of the nation is a worthy goal. Incidentally, the authors present a strong case for the need of effective team work among all groups involved in the production and consumption of food. The book is well worth reading.—R. J. Garber.

VERNALIZATION AND PHOTOPERIODISM

By A. E. Murneek and R. O. Whyte with H. A. Allard, H. A. Borthwick, Erwin Bunning, G. L. Funke, Karl C. Hamner, S. B. Hendricks,