Book Reviews

SOIL CONSERVATION, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY


The eleven chapters have the following headings: Physical factors, economic factors, physical losses from mismanagement of farm lands, physical losses from mismanagement of forest and range lands, economic and social losses from mismanagement of land, conservation methods for farm lands, for lands of shifting cultivation, for range lands, for forest lands, organizing and planning soil conservation projects, and national soil conservation programs.

The United States and China are taken by the authors as examples of large continental areas which exhibit many kinds of land use, erosion damage, and conservation practices. The discussion of lands under shifting cultivation is especially interesting. Well-selected references after each chapter and in a general bibliography cover the general soil conservation problems of all countries.

This book is strongly recommended to all who are interested in soil conservation. It explores not only the physical conditions and adapted control measures but also the economic, social, and political factors which influence agriculture. It must be admitted, however, that some of the statements on economic and political situations are questionable or debatable.—R. J. Muckenhirn.

PLANT AND SOIL


This new journal is issued in English, French, and German under the auspices of the Netherlands Society of Agricultural Science. As rightly pointed out by the editors, the publishing outlets for research workers in the field of agricultural science are disproportionate with the volume of work and demand for crop production in the world of today. The new journal is designed to deal with those branches of research which are centered around the plant and its relations to soil, particularly plant physiology, soil microbiology, soil-borne diseases, and soil science as far as it is related to nutrition.

The panel of consulting editors presents an imposing list of scientists and the editors express the hope that the new medium may contribute to the reestablishment of international intercourse in the field of soil science and plant nutrition. It is most unfortunate, however, that existing world conditions seem to have precluded the participation of specialists from Eastern Europe on the consulting editorial board.