Book Reviews

SVALÖF, 1886–1946, HISTORY AND PRESENT PROBLEMS


This well-written book of 398 pages and some 64 illustrations is a series of separate papers by 15 authors, some of whom have devoted the greater part of their life's time to plant breeding. The book, as the editors state, is not a "manual of plant breeding", but is intended to present the Svalof Institute with its great fund of experience in the theoretical and practical aspects of plant breeding, and the hope is expressed that the book will help to renew and intensify the international relations of the Institute.

The author of each of the separate papers reviews the subject and then presents the work and the results obtained to which is added extensive citation of literature and particularly all of that from the Institute. The papers which follow are apparently very national in scope but draws upon worldwide aspects as it bears upon the plant material at hand. This excellent book is easy to read and should prove highly acceptable to agronomists and plant breeders and should fulfill the desires of its editors.—M. T. Munn.

FARMING FOR INDUSTRY

By R. O. Whyte. London: Todd Publishing Group, Ltd. 160 pages, illus. 1948, 75.6d.

This book presents a brief discussion of land use relative to crop production for human food, animal fodder, and industrial purposes. The chapter headings include leather, oils from plants, tobacco, rubber from the farm, world fibre survey, animal fibres, natural plant fibres, artificial fibres and miscellaneous products. In some cases emphasis is placed on farming problems, in others on economic or industrial problems. The scope of so small a book made it necessary to present much of the material somewhat sketchily.—R. J. Garber.

BOTANIK DER GEGENWART UND VORZEIT, IN CULTURHISTORISCHER ENTWICKELUNG


This is an offset reprint of Jessens' book, which is a scholarly written general history of botany from the earliest times to the time of its original publication, 1864. It embraces the origin and development of the earlier branches of botany, the establishment of botanic gardens, important botanical explorations, together with critical evaluations of the published works of most of the pioneer contributors to plant science. Throughout the text, the subject is treated from a general cultural viewpoint and is correlated with the development of the natural sciences and agriculture, as well as with religious thought in the progress of western civilization.

The present edition includes a brief biographical sketch of the author and a short "justification" for the reprint by the editor. Since the book has been out of print and hard to find for years, its republication will be welcomed by botanists and by all others who are interested in the history of plant science. It is unfortunate, however, that it could not have been put out in cloth or buckram binding. Furthermore, the reviewer can see little justification for calling it Vol. I of a new serial. Apparently "Pallas" is to be a collection of offset reprints of out-of-print classic scientific works. Every encouragement should be given the publishers in this good cause, yet such works could be put out without including them in another serial, of which there are already entirely too many on the market. To librarians, "Pallas" will be just another headache.—H. W. Popp.