Book Reviews

ELEMENTARY PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

By Stuart Dunn, Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Press Inc. v + 164 pages, Illus. 1949. $3.50

This is a very brief textbook of elementary plant physiology designed, as stated by the author, "to meet the need for a brief text which is not too technical for beginning students". It consists of nine chapters in the logical sequence: introduction, the plant cell (structure and function), absorption, transpiration and translocation, mineral nutrition, photosynthesis, organic constituents of plants, respiration, and growth and movement. Each chapter ends with a list of topics for study and discussion, a list of cited literature, and references for general reading. There are 45 illustrations.

Exclusive of the space occupied by illustrations, questions, references, and index, there are some 118 pages of actual text matter. As might be expected in so brief a text, none of the subjects is treated very extensively. Absorption of water and inorganic substances, utilization of inorganic substances, and transpiration are treated somewhat more adequately than are the other subjects taken up. There is no mention of digestion and the treatment of enzymes, in the light of modern knowledge, might well be revised and extended. There are other sections of the book that, no doubt, will be considered inadequate by many plant physiologists, even for a one-semester course. The book may appeal to those who prefer a textbook which contains less rather than more subject matter than can be taken up successfully in a one-semester college course. A laboratory outline by the same author, designed to accompany the text, is put out by the same publishers.

— H. W. Popp.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REPORT ON HERBICIDES

By R. R. Heal and D. G. Thompson, St. Paul 1, Minn.: Agricultural Bookstore, University of Minnesota. 68 pages, mimeo. 1949. $1.00 ($1.25 by mail).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL Report on Herbicides is a very comprehensive literature review of 2,4-D. The authors, former graduate students, surveyed the literature on 2,4-D and other new herbicides and list 489 literature citations. The material is organized in a readable manner and shows good continuity.

Although primarily a review of literature on 2,4-D, selected references on IPC, MCP, 2,4,5-T, and miscellaneous herbicides are included. The review covers the literature from 1945 to July 1949, and was prepared under the direction of Professor R. S. Dunham of the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. — R. G. Robinson.

STIFTER-JAHRBUCH


This Yearbook gives a picture of the German culture of the approximately one million German refugees principally from Sudeten, Czechoslovakia, who are now "new citizens" in the American zone of southern Germany. The eight chapters are essays on literature, art, history, and agriculture. In the chapter on "Increasing Crop Production by Systematic Subsoil Irrigation and Fertilization", Dr. Fritz Preihs analyzes the problems of agriculture in southern Germany under the headings: Solar Energy, Water Supply, Plant Nutrients, and Soils. — F. D. Hole.

FARMER VICTORIOUS (MONEY, MART, AND MOTHER EARTH)

By William J. Hale. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc. XII + 241 pages. 1949. $3.00.

This book is an assemblage of ideas and observations on science, philosophy, history, economics, politics, and agriculture. It popularizes some scientific data, especially with regard to human nutrition. It offers numerous sweeping generalizations about the past and present activities of the human race, and proposes a number of interesting projects, including an Agrarian political party in America. — F. D. Hole.