Book Reviews

DISEASES OF CEREALS AND GRASSES IN NORTH AMERICA

This book will be very helpful to the research worker in the identification of the parasitic fungi (except rusts and smuts, which are not covered) of grasses and also the diseases caused by them. The fungi are listed alphabetically under the four recognized classes. A key to the genera described precedes each class, and in some instances the species are also keyed. The scientific and common name as well as synonyms are given for each fungus. In addition, the description of the fungus, plant symptoms, host range by states or provinces, world distribution, and important references are also presented. Another desirable feature of this volume, which is often omitted, is the description of fungi where the parasitic nature has not been definitely established. Some of the saprophytic fungi which are commonly associated with the pathogen also are included.

The imperfect fungi are presented exceedingly well with both drawings of the pathogens and pictures of the diseased suscepts; however, there is only one photograph in each of the chapters on Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes and no illustrations of the pathogens. Only a few drawings of the Phycomycetous fungi are included in that chapter.

The book includes over 1600 references. — JOSEPH H. GRAHAM.

HYBRID MAIZE (CORN) IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Hybrid Maize (Corn) in European Countries has been published by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. It is a report of the inquiries recently carried on in Europe by several corn hybrid specialists from the United States. The authors discuss the present status of the corn breeding and testing programs of several European countries. — L. L. HUBER.

MAIZE IN THE GREAT HERBALS

This book deals with the arrival of maize in Europe as reflected in the works of the Renaissance herbalists. This hand bound volume is not intended to be of practical value. It does, however, give some insight into the times which produced the great herbals and that golden age of early botany when man learned again to study plants directly, instead of from the classic texts. — L. L. HUBER.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH: THOUGHTS ON FEEDING

This book should prove exceedingly stimulating and informative to all people interested in nutrition and soil fertility. It depicts clearly the author’s opinion and the opinion of many other people, particularly in England, who study nutrition, the importance of proper nutrition in the health of the population. There has been a great deal of material written on the vitamins and other factors in connection with nutrition, but the emphasis upon the importance of the soil from which plants are obtained for the diet is increasing very rapidly.

This book was written for English conditions, and most of the data obtained in England from 600 doctors of the Medical Panel Committee of Cheshire, England; much of the data applies to this country as well as to all other countries in the world. The committee of 600 doctors came to the conclusion that the soil in which crops were grown was the most important factor in creating human health. Of course there are many people who will disagree with the fundamental thesis that chemical fertilizers are bad for the soil and for the crops or plants grown on the soil. Regardless of this difference of opinion the treatment of the soil, as fundamental in developing highly nutritious crops, is a point that is agreed upon by everyone who has given the subject any serious thought.