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. The volume is not intended to be of practical value. It gives some insight into the times which produced herbalists and that golden age of early botany when again to study plants directly, instead of from the classic texts. — L. L. HUBER.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH: THOUGHTS ON FEEDING

By Lionel James Picton. New York: Devin-Adair. PP. 1949. $4.00.

This book should prove exceedingly stimulating and informative to all people interested in nutrition and health. It depicts clearly the author's opinion and the study of other people, particularly in England, who study nutrition. It stresses the importance of proper nutrition in the health of the population. There has been a great deal of material written recently on nutrition, 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. Much of the data obtained in England from 600 doctors of the Medical Panel Committee of Cheshire, England; much of this data applies to this country as well as to all other countries. This 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 on the subject, the soil, as fundamental in developing highly nutritious crops, is a point that is agreed upon by everyone who has given any serious thought.