AGRONOMIC AFFAIRS

647

of Wisconsin and advisor to the soil survey of that State in its map publication work.

Words and colors are two components of maps which appear to a map reader as most familiar. The title of a soil map, for example, receives much attention. Is the title properly worded? Are the words well-arranged on the map sheet? How about the size of letters? Map colors are also much discussed. But frequently no questions are raised about projections, variety of width of lines, styles of lettering, map orientation. Here custom is usually allowed to dictate. In this manner, a multitude of other map features escape our careful analysis until we have obtained requisite information. The title of a soil map, for example, should always "face north;" whether the usual styles of lettering on maps are the best for the purpose. Accepted color schemes, such as blue for oceans (and the distribution of tuberculosis!) and brown for contour lines (and "soils" in general) as effective as they might be? The spirit of experiment which we see in architecture and advertising design today is also at work in the field of cartography.

The book is an analysis and also an outline for experimentation. Most of us do not realize why conventional maps were designed and lettered and colored the way they were. Perhaps they should have been done otherwise. In this "golden age of cartography" in which we are living, tradition is being challenged. Cartographers are questioning, for example, whether maps should always "face north;" whether the usual styles of lettering on maps are the best for the purpose. Accepted color schemes, such as blue for oceans (and the distribution of tuberculosis!) and brown for contour lines (and "soils" in general) as effective as they might be? The spirit of experiment which we see in architecture and advertising design today is also at work in the field of cartography.

This volume makes better reading the second and third times through than the first. The essays are so packed with information and ideas that they bear rereading. Although the style is somewhat informal, it is dignified, if not ponderous in places. A list of "notes" following each essay is an important aid to cartographic scholars.

Both the designer and the careful reader of maps will find this book valuable.—FRANCIS D. HOLE.

ECOLOGICAL CROP GEOGRAPHY AND FIELD PRACTICES IN THE RYUKYU ISLANDS, NATURAL VEGETATION OF THE RYUKYUS, AND AGROCLIMATIC ANALOGUES IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE


In this latest publication by M. Y. Nuttonson, detailed data on climate, geology, soils, natural vegetation, crop distribution, varietal performance, plant diseases and insect pests, and field practices in the Ryukyu Archipelago are presented. Major geological formations are reviewed and shown on maps. Soils of Okinawa are classified by great soil groups, and soil units of that island are also shown on a map. The fertility, uses, and erosion of soils are discussed.

Climatic conditions, as they affect crop production, are summarized for each of the main islands in considerable detail. Year-round, April-September, and October-April analogues found in the Northern Hemisphere are given for each weather station of the Ryukyus.

The natural vegetation and forest practices are described with tables of woody and herbaceous vegetation, and a vegetation map and the principle features of Ryukyu agriculture are discussed in detail. A statistical summary of the chief crops is given.

This report is concise, well-written, and comprehensive. It is a valuable handbook of basic information on the production of economic plants in the different areas of the islands. A special feature is that this is the first time agro-climatic analogues have been formulated for the Northern Hemisphere, not merely for North America. Studies like this are needed for other countries where foreign-aid programs to increase agricultural production are contemplated, because they furnish much of the basic information that is essential for the planning of sound agricultural programs.

—HERBERT C. HANSON.

MENTION

The Insects of Puerto Rico, By George N. Wolcott. (From the Journal of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico) Rio Piedras, P. R.: Univ. of P. R. Agr. Exp. Sta. 32:417-748. 1948.


Nitrogen in the Life of Plants and in the Agriculture of the USSR (in German.) By D. N. Prantschikow. Akademie-Verlag, Schiffbauerdamm 19, Berlin NW 7, Germany, 203 pages (illus.). 1952. $2.88.

Agronomic Affairs

MEETINGS

American Society of Range Management, January 20-22, 1953, Albuquerque, N. M.


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