The advances in cartographic techniques are presented in a section on choice of base maps, a greatly improved and expanded section on the use of aerial photographs in soil surveys, and an appendix on map compilation and reproduction. In view of the present widespread use of aerial photographs as base maps in the United States, the discussions on map preparation with the plane table and by compass traverses have been placed in the appendixes.

The discussions of the uses of soil surveys, the new sections on yield predictions and soil management practices, and soil groupings on the map reflect the greatly increased use being made of soil surveys in the United States today. The relationship of soil surveys to other fields of agricultural research and their utility in getting the results of these researches back to the areas where they are applicable are very ably presented in the section on soil survey reports.

The excellent, short, general bibliography has been revised. A special bibliography of representative soil surveys from contrasting regions of the United States and some sample descriptions of soil series are helpful additions to the text.

This book is the soil surveyor's bible in the United States. The Soil Survey Manual should be on the reference shelf of every agronomist and soil scientist.—E. P. Whiteside.

GENETICS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Edited by L. C. Dunn. New York: The Macmillan Co. 634 pages. 1951. $5.00.

This book comprises 26 authoritative essays presented as invitation papers at the Golden Jubilee of Genetics at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, September 11–14, 1950. For those geneticists and breeders who attended the meeting the book will serve as a permanent record of an inspiring meeting, for those who did not attend, it will be prized not only for its historical value, but because it surveys the progress that has been made in genetics and portrays the status of some of its current problems. The 26 essays cover a wide range of topics and impress one with the impact of genetics not only on biology, but on the gamut of human thought. There may be some who may wish that applied genetics could have been treated more adequately, but all will agree that this is a volume that should be read not only by biologist, but by anyone desiring a better understanding of the possible role of biology in solving present day problems.—R. J. Garber.

THE MOLDS AND MAN

By Clyde M. Christensen. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press. 244 pages (illus). 1951. $4.00.

There are but a few scientific books that provoke unsolicited comments. Such action is usually induced by the reviewer's indignation against a blundering author, rightful or otherwise; very rarely, as in this case, through an admiration of a writer's achievement.

The aim of the book is to give a general account of fungi and their impact upon us. In the introduction, the author gives an assurance that to him “The study of fungi has been more than just a professional occupation— it has been an absorbing, enriching, stimulating adventure.” This statement, practically equivalent to a declaration of affection for fungi, is likely to be taken with a grain of salt by many of us who had less enthusiastic teachers of plant pathology. For how can anyone become infatuated with a creature like Puccinia graminis, whose reproductive mechanics are complicated by pycnospores, acicospores, uredospores, teliospores, basidiospores and other things, and yet retain a certain sympathy for the author? The reason is the author himself— Reverend Clyde M. Christensen— whose gentle, friendly, and sometimes humorous approach to the subject, and the facts themselves, make the book a delight to read.

The author is head of the Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota. General Horticulture surveys the scope and problems of the horticultural industry in the opening chapter. The fundamentals of botany, soils and chemistry are also covered. A major part of the book is devoted to practical information on horticultural plants, including methods of disease control. Landscape gardening and design are included in a separate chapter.

This book will be of value to the gardener as well as to students in their first course in horticulture.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING


The author, now serving as a marketing consultant for the Marketing Research Bureau, Inc., of New York, is a leading expert in the field of agricultural economics. This book, covering all aspects of agricultural marketing, is the product of many years of experience. It is not only a valuable reference book for students and educators in the field, but also a useful guide for practicing agriculturists and others interested in the subject.

The book is divided into six main sections: Principles of Agricultural Marketing, Principles of Agricultural Distribution, Agricultural Marketing Services, Marketing Research, and Inter-Country Marketing. Each section is thoroughly covered, and the book contains a wealth of information on the various aspects of agricultural marketing. The author's approach is clear and straightforward, and the material is presented in a logical and organized manner.

In the section on Principles of Agricultural Marketing, the author discusses the nature of agricultural marketing, the changing role of the farmer, and the importance of marketing in the economy. The section on Principles of Agricultural Distribution covers the distribution of agricultural products, including the role of wholesalers and retailers, and the importance of transportation in agricultural marketing.

The section on Agricultural Marketing Services covers the various services provided by agricultural marketing organizations, including research, advertising, and public relations. The section on Marketing Research covers the techniques and methods used in agricultural marketing research, and the importance of research in improving marketing practices.

The section on Inter-Country Marketing covers the marketing of agricultural products to other countries, including the role of tariffs and other trade barriers, and the importance of international marketing in the global economy.

Overall, this book is an excellent resource for anyone interested in the field of agricultural marketing. It is well-written, well-researched, and thoroughly covers all aspects of the subject. It is a valuable addition to any library in the field.