LEADERS IN AMERICAN SCIENCE

This is the first volume of a new series to be published in alternate years. It parallels somewhat the material presented in the well-known volumes of American Men of Science. Pictures are used rather extensively, but their use is no measure of a biographer's eminence or achievement in his special field of research. All material, the editors say, was submitted by the scientists themselves, with the result that those who prepared longer accounts of their life and work appear to get the most space. Younger scientists were apparently less modest than their more experienced colleagues, hence the volume emphasizes this group.

Certain fields, such as psychology and chemistry, fare much better than the agricultural research fields. In the field of agronomy and soil science, most of the eminent research leaders have two or three lines of space, whereas some of the men who completed graduate work in the past 5 years have 2 or 3 inches of space plus a portrait. However, we sympathize with the editors who must compile a book of this kind. It is a tremendous task, to say the least. We feel, however, that no one private publisher can ever do an adequate job in this field. It would take an agency which could enlist the cooperation and full support of every important professional society in the United States, such as a national research council or an academy representing all sciences.

RICE

This book on the world's most important crop is the first to be published in a series on Tropical Agriculture in conjunction with the United Kingdom's Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture, Animal Health and Forestry under the Editorship of Sir Harald Tampany.

Until Efferson's The Production and Marketing of Rice was published by the Rice Journal in New Orleans in 1952, no new book on this subject had been available since 1924. Those interested in this crop are indeed fortunate to have these excellent works made available in which much widely scattered and often highly controversial literature is compiled into well documented, easy to read volumes.

Mr. Grist has been closely allied with the world rice industry since 1914 as an important member of the Colonial Agriculture Service. He has published many articles on rice and other tropical crops.

As rice is the staple food of the most heavily populated and undernourished areas of the world, and as the need for an increased production of approximately 1.3 million tons per year is acute, the author stresses this phase of rice culture. He emphasizes the need for improved drainage and irrigation, more effective control of insects, the addition of humus to the land, with or without fertilizer, and the selection and breeding of better varieties of the rice plant, climate and soils needed for its cultivation, methods of improving his lot. There are 72 photographs in black and white and in color that make this volume interesting reading and reference for both layman and scientist alike. Almost 300 references document the book, making it a comprehensive survey of rice production in all its aspects.—VICTOR E. GREEN, JR.

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEED PRODUCTION

This text book, new in its field, was written to fill the needs of seedsmen, farmer-growers, company fieldmen, county agents, agricultural teachers and others for a book on the essentials of seed production combined with a discussion of actual production methods. Its use, therefore, is extended beyond the class room to include the groups mentioned above who well find it a very practical guide and source of reference to research and technical publications on seed production and plant reproduction.

The text is based on material used in a course given jointly by the authors at Utah State Agricultural College. The book is divided into four parts. Part I discusses the general organization and history of the industry as well as factors and problems directly related to seed production. Parts II and III constitute the major portion of the book and describe the production methods of vegetable and flower seed crops respectively. Part IV is devoted to the handling of mature seed. Parts I and IV give an excellent overall picture of this complex industry, including the many activities and problems of a seed company in addition to the job of seed production. Literature references are extensive, and should be especially valuable to all workers in the industry. Many references to foreign studies are included. The authors stress the impracticality of complete coverage to all foreign studies. The authors are respectively Agent Horticulturist, USDA, and head of the department of horticulture at Utah State Agricultural College.

THE INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, A RECORD OF RESEARCH: II
The accounts included in this published report outline briefly the research activities of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina from July 31, 1951, to June 30, 1953. The report includes summaries of the following projects:

Theoretical investigations of mental tests; machine methods for factor analysis; factor analysis and related statistical techniques, development of techniques in human resources; research, genetics of quantitative characters in plants; effect of soil and weather on the nutritive value of plants, experimental techniques in pasture research, bio-statistics, experimental designs for industrial research, biases in results from different types of samples of North Carolina farm owners, the analysis of classification data with unequal subclass numbers, non-parametric statistical inference, statistical inference connected with some multivariate problems, sequential methods in analysis of variance, and optimal designs to estimate functions of variances.

The report also lists special conferences held by the Institute and papers presented thereat, publications by staff members, unpublished papers by staff members, Institute mimeograph series, and dissertations and theses prepared under the direction of Institute staff members.

SOILS AND LAND OF MICHIGAN

The natural character of the land surface of Michigan in association with varying social, economic and political conditions, and its influence on land utilization is the subject of this interesting book. It is based on long and critical study of the area by one of America's ablest soil scientists and ecologists. General descriptions of the physiography, vegetation, parent rocks, slope and relief of the state are presented in the first quarter of the book. The relationships of these factors to the physical and chemical properties of the soils are outlined in the chapter on pedology. This section should be valuable to everyone interested in soils of the Great Lakes Region, Podzol and Gray Brown Podzolic areas elsewhere in the world, or in the natural geography of this area as part of a national or world picture. It summarizes many of the author's unique contributions to the terminology of soil science.

The central two-fourths of the text describe the combinations of all the above natural features of the landscape. The relation of natural limitations to the potentialities and utility of each area are skillfully interwoven. In the final quarter of the book, Prof. Veatch discusses objectively the geopolitical implications of the natural geography of the area. These are then used as a background for his predictions of future land use trends and potentialities. He estimates that Michigan has more than 30 million acres of potentially arable land. This figure is astonishing when compared to the 12 million tillable acres now in farms, and the fact that only about 8 million acres are used annually for harvested crops. In recognition of its monumental nature, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has designated this book as No. 7 in its Memoir Series.—E. P. WHITFRIED.