Book Reviews

SERGEI N. WINOGRADSKY
HIS LIFE AND WORK

By Selman A. Waksman, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Rutgers University Press. 150 pages. 1949. $4.00.

Dr. Waksman has performed a real service in reviewing the life, personality and achievements of this great bacteriologist. No other American, and certainly few, if any, present-day European bacteriologists who aspire to become better acquainted with the rise and development of soil microbiology have visited Winogradsky's home and laboratory outside of Paris in early May, 1924. Two sections: I. Winogradsky: The Man and the Scientist, and II. Winogradsky and the Scientific World, follow with a coverage of 86 pages of carefully compiled historical information. Although these two sections cover in large part Dr. Waksman's paper in Soil Science, vol. 62, pp. 197-226, 1946, this repetition is well justified in this separate volume. The third section comprises letters and excerpts from a voluminous correspondence to Waksman from Winogradsky. Through these personalia the reader learns of the difficulties in compiling and publishing Winogradsky's collected works in 1949, Winogradsky's sorrows and privations wrought by sickness, and also for the agricultural teacher and the county agent who gets frequent calls to identify specimens in this group of plants.

Biographies of this quality are indispensable on the bookshelf of the bacteriologist and the soil scientist.—O. N. Allen.

HOW TO KNOW THE GRASSES

By Richard W. Pohl. Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Co. 192 pages (illus.). 1954. $2.00, paper bound; $2.75, cloth bound.

How to Know the Grasses is a key to 293 of the more common and important American grasses. Dr. Pohl refers to these as the species which the beginner is most apt to meet. He lists them as of importance to farming, gardening, weed control, and range and pasture management.

In addition to the well-illustrated key, the book includes an introductory section. Dr. Pohl carries his illustrations into the index, the more common botanical terms in the index being illustrated with small drawings.

This book is an excellent guide for the beginner or the student, and also for the agricultural teacher and the county agent who gets frequent calls to identify specimens in this group of plants.

LEGUME CULTURE AND PICTURE IDENTIFICATION—SEEDLING TO MATURITY

By Herbert B. Hartwig. Published by Marion S. Hartwig, 109 Worth St., New York. 42 pages, 8½ by 11 in. lithographed, flexible covers, plastic binding. 1953. $1.00.

Prof. Hartwig of Cornell University has prepared an excellent, extremely useful handbook on legumes which should find wide acceptance among farmers, agricultural workers, teachers and extension personnel. One of its most outstanding features is found in the 18 full pages of labeled line drawings to help the reader identify the various legume plants. Botanical terms are defined or illustrated in the 30 species and varieties which are covered in the drawings.

Perhaps the booklet’s only flaw is in the full page text which faces each page of drawings. These pages contain clear, concise capsule discussions of the various plants, packed with information, but typographically rather difficult to read. The content of these pages, however, is of such high quality that this slight drawback is a minor matter.

The line drawings are outstanding. They present characteristic features of partly and fully grown legumes, enlarged pictures of the distinguishing flowering and fruiting parts, as well as pic-