STANDING ROOM ONLY


"Standing Room Only" by a Harvard Professor should be required reading for every literate man and woman. Too long has man ignored a basic teaching of nature. He has taken the easy and near sighted view, yes even the selfish view. A selfless deed is one that will leave this world a better place in which to live. As parents, we jealously activate some responsibilities to our children. We desire for them better opportunities than we have in the pursuit of health, happiness and the finer things of life; and yet too often choose to ignore one aspect of this subject which may vitiate all others.

Place a male and female fruit fly in a stoppered bottle containing a bit of ripened banana and what happens? In a few days the bottle is filled with flies, the banana is consumed and the flies die. This simple illustration teaches one inexorable natural law. If rate of reproduction outruns the resources to sustain it, only one thing can happen—to disaster for the individuals and the species. If man is to climb higher and higher in the social scale of life or, put another way, approach nearer and nearer to the level we think the Creator intended, he must have a suitable environment. Is such an environment possible in a country bursting at the seams from population pressure?

Many will disagree with Dr. Sax's position, some on religious grounds, some for political reasons and others as a matter of expediency. I for one have never been able to reconcile the idea that there should be moral, religious or political discrimination in the natural laws we seek to manipulate as long as that manipulation is beneficial to man, present and future. On the contrary if man is aware of the natural laws, he would be foolish, indeed, to disregard them. Nature maintains a balance among biological forms by "survival of the fittest". Man should be intelligent enough to avoid situations that will inevitably lead to just such a rigorous struggle among his own species. "Be fruitful and multiply" should never be interpreted to be overfruitful and die.

No one can read Dr. Sax's book and escape giving serious thought to a problem now acute in several countries and just over the horizon in others. To quote a Chinese proverb, "It is later than you think."—R. J. GARBER

CORN AND CORN PRODUCTION


This publication represents Vol. V of Agronomy, a series of Monographs prepared under the auspices of the American Society of Agronomy, and represents a noteworthy addition to the series of publications already sponsored by the Society.

There are 16 chapters, contributed by 14 different authors. The chapter headings and authors indicate the broad scope of treatment as follows:

I. History and origin (P. Weathwax and L. F. Randolf); II. Vegetative morphology (J. E. Sass); III. Structure and development of reproductive organs (Weatherwax); IV. The cytogenetics of maize (M. M. Rhoadess).

V. Corn breeding (G. F. Sprague); VI. Mineral nutrition of corn (J. D. Sayre).

VII. Climatic requirements (R. H. Shaw); VIII. Corn culture (G. H. Stringfield).

IX. Production of hybrid seed corn (J. M. Airy); X. Popcorn (A. M. Brunson); XI. Sweet corn (G. M. Smith); XII. Dis-