The format of the book is excellent with pictures and tables being used effectively. Each chapter is concluded with references of Literature Cited and Suggested Reading. This will be of value to students who wish to do additional reading on any of the subjects presented.

Where the philosophy of the beginning course is similar to that of the author, this should prove to be an effective text for introducing students to the science of Agronomy.—D. G. HANWAY.

ONE MAN'S LIFE WITH BARLEY


"One Man's Life With Barley" is a fascinating book, written with humor and great appeal. There is no hesitation on my part to recommend it. Since I was not intimately associated with the author, the late H. V. Harlan, I feel that I can look on his life work with a degree of objectivity, and it is in this light that I write this review of his book.

Dr. Harlan was a pioneer in the study of barley for the USDA. There is no question, among those acquainted with barley, that he worked with an intriguing plant species, and Harlan added to the interest in barley by collecting, from all parts of the world, wild, partially domestic, and domestic relatives of common barley. His research was carried out at Aberdeen, Idaho, and Sacaton, Arizona; during most of his active career he was free from administrative duties; his life seemed to be consumed with interest, among other things, in barley.

His book is more than a treatise on barley. It is based, to a large degree, on his travels to foreign countries, and on the experiences he had while increasing his knowledge of barley. He traveled widely; he met dignitaries from many lands; he was fascinated by nature: plants, animals, and not least, man. He wrote about all these in his book. Not only did he describe what he saw during his travels, but also, he wrote about what he thought. He apparently enjoyed philosophizing concerning nature, and of times during the course of his book his trend of thought traveled from the eccentricities of barley to the behavior of his fellowmen with the greatest of ease. In this light, his book is of great interest; it might even be compared with the travels of Jack London among other things, in barley.

As to the scientific aspects of his book, Harlan is vague. He advocated, with no small degree of vigor, the importance of multiple crosses in the improvement of barley. He used many of the varieties he collected, in the hopes of incorporating into one variety, the good qualities of many varieties. It is well known that success in barley improvement has been met by the use of simple crosses, and the ease with which these crosses are made and exploited would seem to give them the edge over the multiple cross technique. However, it is difficult to deny the dictum to explore all avenues of approach. The genetics, breeding, and physiology of barley are dealt with in story-book fashion, and are of limited value to the specialist. He appears, from this writing, to be prospecting youngers, in a naturalist's style; it is, therefore, difficult to criticize his scientific approach, since it would appear that his motive was something other than to convey, in scientific detail, "the nature of barley".

Taken in the vein in which it must have been written, One Man's Life With Barley is more of an autobiography of H. V. Harlan, than a biography of barley. From this vantage point, the book is provocative as well as entertaining; and, interest in the book is, thus, not confined to those whose specialties concern barley per se.—B. W. WOODWARD, Utah.

LIGHT, VEGETATION AND CHLOROPHYLL


This volume is composed of the English translations of Lumière et Végétation, by Jean Terrien and Georges Truffant, and L'Energie Chlorophyllienne, by Jules Carles. Excessive overlapping was avoided by omitting the less explicit of any two passages covering the same subject matter. However, no information has been omitted from the text.

The first part of this volume is concerned with various kinds of radiation and their effects on the growth and development of plant parts. The influence of environmental factors on photosynthesis and the theories of assimilation are presented. The effects of radiation on phototropism and photoperiodism are also discussed. The latter half of this volume is concerned with chlorophyll and its function in the photoperiodic scheme. The products of photosynthesis are discussed as well as the various factors which influence their production.

Many of the important factors involved in the storage of the sun's energy are presented here in a concise form. The book has been made quite readable by the translator.—S. C. WIGGANS.

### Agronomic Affairs

#### MEETINGS

- Nov. 18-22—American Society of Agronomy, Atlanta, Ga.
- Nov. 18-22—Assn. of Seed Control Officials, Biloxi, Miss.
- Dec. 3—Iowa Fertilizer Conference, Ames.
- Dec. 4-5—Hybrid Corn Industry Research Conference, Chicago.
- Dec. 11-13—Agricultural Ammonia Institute, Little Rock, Ark.
- Dec. 12-13—Belwide Cotton Production Conference, Memphis, Tenn.
- Feb. 3-5—Assn. of Southern Agricultural Workers, Little Rock, Ark.

#### POSITIONS WANTED


**Agricultural microbiologist, Ph.D., wishes research or teaching position. Experience in research on nitrogen-fixing bacteria, microflora or forage plants, and fermentation of plant material. Also teaching experience. Available Feb. 1 or June 15, 1958.** Write AJ 11-2

**Plant Breeder**—Plant Pathologist—Ph.D., several years experience in research. Would prefer far Western or Western location in college or state program. Full details and references supplied on request. Desires research position with or without teaching. Write AJ 11-3

**POSITION OPEN**

Plant-breeder wanted to direct a cross-breeding and selecting project in California. Please write, mentioning main qualifications, to Norman Johnston, Manager Research & Development, Hunt Foods and Industries, Inc., Hayward, California.

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