MAN'S ROLE IN CHANGING THE FACE OF THE EARTH


In June 1955 about 50 invited experts from 4 continents gathered to discuss many aspects of what man has done to change the earth, and the prospects for the future. This volume includes 54 chapters, each an abstract of what the writer has learned as a result of many years of research on his subject. These well-documented chapters are supplemented by reports of comprehensive "discussion sessions," and by "summary remarks" by the co-chairmen, Carl O. Sauer, Marston Bates, and Lewis Mumford. Some topics extensively treated historically are the influences of fire, of deforestation, of soil erosion, of tillage, of irrigation, of mining, of urbanization and of destruction of native plants and animals. The 200 pages devoted to forecasting the future include many highly thought-provoking statements. Many of the chapters will yield much value to geography teachers and interested pupils, even some in the upper grades. Examples are the editor's introduction; the co-chairmen's introductions and summaries; R. J. Russell's account of floods, earthquakes, coastal and river changes, and storms; Klimm's Man's Ports and Channels; Albrecht's on soil; C. D. Harris' on residential vs. industrial land use; Harrison Brown's forecast of the future sources of power and minerals; and the symposium discussion on man's prospects. The volume ends with an inspiring statement by Lewis Mumford, distinguished for his work on city planning, on the need for greater appreciation of nature and of other people—for more "love."

This massive but relatively inexpensive, encyclopedic volume merits a place in all sizable school and public libraries and it could advantageously be owned by all teachers of conservation, geography, sociology, and history.—Stephen S. Vishek.

A WORLD GEOGRAPHY OF FOREST RESOURCES


For the past 33 years, the accepted authoritative work on the forest resources of the world has been the two-volume classic of Zon and Sparhawk entitled "Forest Resources of the World". The fact that much of the information is obsolete and that the publication has been out of print for a number of years emphasized the need for a successor in this field. That need has been partially fulfilled by the appearance of "A World Geography of Forest Resources."

From the preface of this book, one receives the impression that the central theme of the discussion is the conflict between those who would clear forested land for agricultural or other purposes and those who seek to maintain the forested areas for the varying benefits accrued from lands on which trees are the dominant vegetation. In actuality, however, the book goes far beyond this for in its 31 chapters, one finds not only a compilation of statistics dealing with the distribution and disposition of the myriads of forest products, but also a consideration of the interrelationships of forest, soils, and climate, so important in the production of timber crops. Therefore, the book should appeal not only to the econo-