IOV 25.

THE NEW REVOLUTION IN THE COTTON ECONOMY


The factors influencing the mechanization of cotton production and the influence of mechanization on cotton production are dealt with in three sections: "Why Cotton Fell Behind," "How Mechanization Took Hold," and "The Social Consequences." The author, currently Associate Professor of Economics at Rutgers University, has made a noteworthy contribution to economic history of American Agriculture in reviewing the history of upland cotton production in the first section of the book. The information contained in these 90 pages should be in the hands of all persons concerned with agricultural policy in the Cotton Belt. Parts 2 and 3 are no less interesting, but some errors in fact occur in part 2 which should be mentioned even though they detract little from the book. The distinction between defoliants and desiccants is not made, and one of the leading desiccants is included in a list of defoliants. Anhydrous ammonia is referred to as a hydrocarbon. Some statements in the present tense concerning men in the field are no longer correct; retirement or death of the individuals named preceded publication date by a few years. In general, however, the review of cotton mechanization to date is accurate as well as comprehensive. The author has dealt with the social consequences of mechanization in a manner that should promote understanding of changes in the South as they are influenced by a changing agricultural economy.—John M. Green.

SOIL CONSERVATION


This is a text book for use of college students. The wide range of discussion on all aspects of conservation of our soil makes it extremely valuable as a reference book. The well-selected photographs provide attractive visual aids to a clearer understanding of the text. Part I and II bring home to the many people who have seen the effects of erosion in the Holy Land, just how serious this problem may be. Many people who have seen! heard of their present day problems of food and scarcity of water now, are not likely to be so positive when they say "but it can't happen to us here in the United States". Erosion takes place whenever raindrops strike bare soil or when the wind blows dust in our faces. The mechanics of erosion both water and wind are dealt with in detail. The reader is shown not only how erosion starts but also the cumulative effects which sometimes end in total destruction of land by floods or dust storms. The study of past results of erosion could leave a rather hopeless feeling for the future if it were not for the conservation practices that can be used to protect the soil from now on. Good conservation practices are practically synonymous with good farming. Part III takes up the various conservation practices that can be used for protection of different kinds of soil under the many conditions of farming, ranching, orchard or truck crop production. Many of these conservation practices, especially the use of vegetation, are flexible enough to be adapted to a wide range of conditions covering soils, topography, climatic conditions, and productive use. In a program of soil conservation covering as many varied conditions as are found in this country, the planning must be dynamic and ever changing to meet new problems. Part IV can never be standardized. Farm and Watershed planning must successfully meet ever changing conditions. If nothing else a change of ownership brings new ideas of land use. To meet such new ideas and maintain effective conservation of soil is a never ending challenge. Since soil conservation is such a dynamic program, many of the practices covered under Part III will need to be revised to keep up with the changing techniques that will be developed rapidly in the future.—T. C. Maurer.

PEA VARIETIES GROWN IN FRANCE


This book is the first in a series of studies on truck crops by the National Institute of Agronomic Research of the Ministry of Agriculture of France.

In the first of two sections, the author presents general information about cultivated field peas (Pisum sativum L.). Starting with the genus in mention of peas in the world literature, the author traces the development of the species through the centuries up to the present day. A short discussion of the known facts about possible centers of origin is included, based on the geographical distribution of wild types and the study of crosses between these types.

The second part, which is by far the most voluminous, describes morphological and other characters which can be used for distinguishing varieties. More than 120 varieties commonly grown in

Published May, 1957