

**Book Reviews**

**COTTON (3rd Edition)**


566 p., illus. $12.00.

The junior author, who has joined Dr. Brown in this edition, has been largely responsible for a thorough-going revision and a badly needed up-dating of the second edition published some 20 years ago. With discussions in the basic fields of taxonomy, morphology, genetics, physiology, pathology, entomology and chemistry, and the more applied fields of breeding, varieties, fertilizers, culture, and harvesting, the book will be of interest not only to cotton agronomists but to all workers in cotton science. An even broader group is served by chapters on ginning, fiber technology, classing, marketing, processing, and statistics. Being so broad in scope, it is understandable that the various topics could not be treated in detail. However, an extensive list of references follows each chapter for the convenience of those who may desire more specific or detailed information on particular topics.

Revisions of special significance to agronomists have been made in several chapters. The topic of taxonomy has been changed to include the recent revisions in the classification of the genus *Gossypium*. The chapter on varieties has been modernized to present the current Upland types and descriptions of each as well as discussions of extra-long-staple and foreign varieties. Recent developments in the breeding of interspecific hybrids and the use of foreign stocks have been added in the section dealing with cotton breeding. The chapters dealing with harvesting and ginning have been changed considerably to include current information on mechanical harvesting and operation of modern gin machinery. The chapter on cotton fibers presents the newly developed and increasingly important subject of instrumentation. Illustrations used have been well chosen to supplement the written text and the statistics included are concise and easily interpreted.

This welcome revision of an old standard text on the subject of cotton should adequately serve as an up-to-date text for both classroom and reference use.—G. A. Niles

**ROTHAMSTED PARK GRASS—1856–1949**

*By Winifred E. Brenchley, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Herpenden, Herts, England. Price £1.*

The Park Grass Plots at Rothamsted, laid down in 1856 and continued with little change in treatment ever since, afford a unique opportunity of studying the effects of long-continued manuring, with different types of fertilizer, on the yield and botanical composition of hay. The experiment was one of Dr. Winifred E. Brenchley's chief interests, and at the time of her death in 1955 she had nearly completed this revision of her monograph, "Manuring of Grassland for Hay", published in 1924, so as to include the data for the thirty years from 1919 to 1949. The book provides the most recent data available on the botanical composition of the plots, as the regular hay analyses have been discontinued since 1949. Observations on the flora are, however, still being carried out and the yields from two cuts of hay per annum recorded as before.

**Agronomic Affairs**

**WESTERN SOCIETIES MEET, ELECT OFFICERS**

The Western Societies of Soil Science and of Crop Science held a 3-day meeting, June 16 to 19, at Utah State University in conjunction with the Pacific Division of AAAS.

Two-hundred-fifty members attended their joint meeting which comprises the Western Branch of ASA. W. M. Meyers, ASA president, spoke on "The Continuing Need for Agronomic Research", and J. B. Peterson, vice president (president-elect), discussed "Policy for Departmental Administration in a Modern University".

New officers of the Western Society of Crop Science, who will serve also as 1958–59 officers of the Western Branch of ASA, are: Horton M. Laude, University of California, Davis, president; Oliver F. Smith, University of Nevada and ARS, vice president; and William A. Riedel, University of Wyoming, secretary-treasurer.

The Western Society of Soil Science elected as its new officers: HAROLD DREGNE, New Mexico State College, president; C. D. MOODIE, Washington State College, vice president; and STERLING RICHARDS, University of California, Riverside, secretary-treasurer.

Western affairs are in good hands.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Soil Conservation Society of America, Asheville, North Carolina October 19–22, 1958

Theme—"Land and Water for Tomorrow's Living".

**8th INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS**

1960 Reading, Berkshire, England

Further particulars of this Congress, in which special emphasis will be laid on recent research developments in grassland, may be obtained from the Secretary at the address above.

**PERSONNEL SERVICE**