useful as a brief review for those not working directly in the field and as an introduction for those starting work in this field. Even the experienced worker, however, is apt to find mention of work with which he is not familiar.—H. F. Massey, University of Kentucky, Lexington.


Agricultural Technical Study Groups that have visited the USSR during the past two years agree that we must become better informed about Russian scientific literature. To meet this need, funds have been provided through the National Science Foundation for the translation of some of the principal Russian scientific journals and monographs. In biology this program is carried out by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The selection of Pochovvedeniye as one of the seven journals in the biological field for translation is well merited. This is one of the oldest and most renowned of all publications on soils.

The English translation of Pochovvedeniye is designated as, “Soviet Soil Science.” Each issue represents a cover-to-cover translation of its Soviet counterpart. The translation begins with the January 1958 issue and the first English translation number was published in August 1959. The readability of the translation is excellent and the general format is attractive. The price is not favorable for individual subscriptions ($40), but every library concerned with Agricultural science should have it. The journal is available to libraries at a reduced rate of $20 per year.

Pochovvedeniye is one of many journals financed by the USSR Academy of Sciences. The journal is published by the V. V. Dokuchayev Institute of Soil Science, and the Editorial Board apparently consists principally of the heads of the various sections of the Institute. Such members of the Editorial Board as I. V. Tyurin (editor-in-chief and Director of the Dokuchayev Institute), I. N. Antipov-Karatayev, V. A. Kovda, and A. V. Sokolov are well known to most U. S. soil scientists.

‘Soviet Soil Sciences’ represents only a small part of the published research in soils in the USSR. It is, however, the distinguished journal in the field and reports the more basic research. Familiarity with papers reported in this journal will give American soil scientists an insight into the soils research in the USSR.—WYNNE THORNE, Utah State University.


This book gives a very interesting and accurate introduction to the subject of breeding field crops. It should be an excellent text for introductory courses in plant breeding and a good reference for advanced students.

The first chapter defines the science of plant breeding, describes the training needed by the plant breeder, and gives a brief history and some of the accomplishments of plant breeding. This is followed by a chapter on reproduction in plants.

The science of genetics in relation to plant breeding is discussed in Chapter 3. This includes a description of heritable and environmental variation in plants and their importance to the plant breeder. Chapter 4 is entitled “Methods of breeding field crops” and discusses the concept of a variety as it differs among crops depending on their mode of pollination or method of reproduction. Chapter 5 describes the common techniques used in plant breeding.

The remainder of the book, except the final chapter, is devoted to a chapter on each of the following crops or groups of crops: Wheat, oats, barley, rice, flax, tobacco, soybeans, corn, sorghum, cotton, sugar beets, and forage crops. These discussions vary somewhat from crop to crop but generally include specific information as to the origin of the crop, genetics or cytogenetics of the crop, breeding methods used in improving the crop, history of variety improvement in the crop, and the most important objectives of the breeder. Each chapter includes a list of references.

The last chapter is devoted to seed production practices and the common methods used to increase or maintain seed of new or superior varieties of the various crops.

An outstanding quality of the book is the author’s use of practical examples to present major points or to describe various phases of the subject. Excellent illustrations help to make this a fascinating and stimulating book.—CHARLES R. ROHDE, University of Nebraska.

Agronomic Affairs

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