BOOK REVIEWS

ALKALI SOILS, THEIR FORMATION, PROPERTIES, AND RECLAMATION

The author is professor emeritus of soil chemistry, University of California. He has made many significant contributions to the chemistry of alkaline soils and the application of research studies to soil reclamation.

This monograph presents a review and discussion of the results of investigations of several phases of the alkaline problem. The book is well written and contains profuse references to the literature. The origin of salts and their effects on soils, cation exchange reactions, evolution of alkaline soils and their relations to plant growth, and the reclamation of these soils are discussed in detail. Experimental results and theories are presented and are evaluated in light of the author's personal experience.

The term "alkaline soils" as used in this book, refers to soils containing excessive amounts of soluble salts, abnormally high percentages of exchangeable sodium, or both. This terminology is at variance with the U. S. Salinity Laboratory system, based on de Simgond's classification, presently used by a majority of soil scientists in the western states. While noting deficiencies in both systems and recognizing the need for specific descriptive terms, the author prefers to retain "alkaline" as an inclusive term.

This book will be of particular value to professional workers concerned with the theory and practice of alkaline soil formation and reclamation. — H. F. Dunckle.

FARM POWER

The agronomist who finds it necessary to use tractors in his field work will regard Farm Power as a useful aid. The book contains an introductory section on relation of farm power to agriculture, with the balance of the book divided into two main sections on internal-combustion engines and tractors. The section on tractors contains detailed and well-illustrated chapters on tractor types, pulley attachments, power take-offs, power lifts, tractor controls, traction members, engine and tractor repair, power measurement, hitches and drawbars, and tractor selection and management.

A LABORATORY MANUAL FOR SOIL FERTILITY STUDENTS
By Darrell A. Ruszel Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Company. 75 pages (illus.). 1950. $1.35.

A Laboratory Manual for Soil Fertility Students is designed for students just beginning the study of the chemistry and fertility of soils. According to the author, formerly at Iowa State College and now with the University of Illinois, the manual is for students expecting to specialize in agronomy and also for those seeking a knowledge of the subject for application in other fields of agriculture. It contains 13 laboratory exercises, ranging from "Determination of Total Nitrogen in Soils" through "Sieve Analysis of Crushed Limestone." In addition there is an introductory section on first aid, use of reagents, use of balances, and an appendix section.

GAZETTEER OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESEARCH STATIONS IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, 1952


The Gazetteer is a directory of over 1,000 research stations and laboratories located in the British Commonwealth of nations, including as well the Republic of Ireland. The following items of information, so far as possible, are given for each station: location (including latitude and longitude), climate, altitude, soils, crops, research, and postal address. Stations of extreme range in climate and altitude are listed, among them the 10,500-foot high station at Lahaul in the Himalayas, the plant virus research unit at Cambridge, England, at 4 feet below sea level, and a station at Fort Simpson, Canada, 62° N. There are two indexes, one listing research stations and the other subjects of research.