BOOK REVIEWS

THE CLIMATE NEAR THE GROUND
By Rudolf Geiger, Second Printing,
494 pp. 1957. $6.00.

"The Climate Near the Ground," originally published in German, and now translated into English, is a comprehensive survey of microclimatological problems. It covers many of the microclimatic problems of practical consequence in a descriptive method of presentation. At the present time it practically stands alone in its field.

The book can be divided into two broad divisions. The first, covers the basic meteorological physics of the air layer near the ground and also certain soil properties. Radiation, wind, and humidity are among the items discussed. Material is presented with a minimum of mathematics. The second covers the microclimatic effects in relation to topography, plant cover, and man. The significance of microclimatology to zoology is discussed very briefly. To some readers, the second division may seem somewhat lacking in physical explanations. The book is written so that the reader needs little mathematics or physics.

This book is of great interest to specialists in the field of microclimatology, and would be of considerable value to specialists in many other fields, such as agriculture, botany and forestry. It is particularly recommended for those with an interest in microclimatological problems, but with a limited knowledge of mathematics and physics.—R. H. Shaw

INTRODUCTION TO AGRONOMY

This book was written primarily as a text for an introductory course in Agronomy at the collegiate level but can serve as a general introduction for any person interested in this field. The first chapter traces the development of agronomic science by presenting many of the classical contributions. The use of direct quotations throughout the text to present subject matter introduces the reader to many of the basic principles in each area and to challenge him with problems remaining to be solved. Cultural practices are not discussed in this text. To many this will seem to be a serious omission.

The format of the book is excellent with pictures and tables being used effectively. Each chapter is concluded with references of Literature Cited and Suggested Reading. This will be of value to students who wish to do additional reading on any of the subjects presented.

Where the philosophy of the beginning course is similar to that of the author, this should prove to be an effective text for introducing students to the science of Agronomy.—D. G. Hanway.

POTASH SYMPOSIUM, II
Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Technical Advisors of the International Potash Institute, London 1956

This is a series of papers on the behavior of potassium in the plant given at a London meeting under the chairmanship of Sir E. John Russell. The papers were presented by authorities and hence provide a good opportunity to better acquainted with the thinking of the authors. Many interesting ideas are presented which should be of value to those concerned with plant nutrition problems. Titles of the papers are as follows: Selective Absorptions by Storage Tissues and Intact Barley in Tissue Cultures; Potassium in the Cell; Potassium Deficiency in Plants; The Significance of the Potassium Content of Plants; The Physiological Basis of the Effect of Potassium on Crop Yield; Visual Symptoms of Potassium Deficiency in Crops and Relation of Potassium to Plant Nutrition; The Effect of Potassium on Microclimatic Problems of Practical Consequence in A Desert Environment; The Influence of Potassium on the Quality of Products; Special Regard to the Biological Value; and The Effect of Potassium on Parasitic Plant Diseases. Six of the papers are given in English and summaries of all papers are given in French including English.—Werner L. Nelson

PLANT ANALYSIS AND FERTILIZER PROBLEMS
Vol. II.

This is a volume of prepared papers presented at a symposium organized by the Institut de Recherches pour l'Huile and Oleagineux and under the auspices of the Sixth International Congress of Soil Science.

Papers dealing with some general relationships between potassium and growth and yield are presented by E. J. Hewitt, D. J. Nicholas, L. Leyton from the University of Bristol, U.K.; J. Maistre, France; and M. Tserling of the U.S.S.R.; P. Gouny, P. Prevot, of France; J. C. Cain and J. A. Cook of New Zealand; and C. O. Tamm of Sweden.

A second group of papers dealing specifically with potassium problems include the following authors: K. A. Patterson, U.S.S.R.; E. Fey, U. S. Africa; J. Maistre, France; and M. Tserling of the U.S.S.R.; E. Beyers, U. S. Africa; J. Maistre, France; and M. Tserling of the U.S.S.R.; and R. Gasser and J. Muller, Switzerland.

A third group of papers are concerned with the analysis of soil and plant analyses. Authors include J. W. Reith and I. M. Johnston, Great Britain; and P. Prevot, France, H. R. Oppenheimer, U.S.A.; G. Van Schoor, Belgium; and J. W. Reith and I. M. Johnston, Great Britain.

A fourth group of papers is concerned with the use of potash and fertilizer problems of perennials, and annual plants.