BOOK REVIEWS

Some Aspects of Applied Pedology
(ASPECTS DE PEDOLOGIE APPLIQUEE)

According to a statement on the jacket, this is the first book in French to summarize practical aspects of soil survey. This volume supplements the U. S. Soil Survey Manual and explains in detail and thoroughly the purpose, scope, and requirements of soil survey in temperate, as well as in tropical regions.

The treatise is divided into four parts: Soil Survey, Land Classification, Land Development, and Soil Conservation. Three elements of soil study are properly emphasized: (1) a soil map, based on scientific classification and delineation, which is the foundation of all the other single factor maps useful in academic investigations and practical projects; (2) High classification and efficiency of the technical staff assuring correct planning and interpretation of the soil survey report to a variety of users; (3) Team effort from the early technical aspects of soil survey to the interpretive phase in which both specialists and laymen are involved.

The author and the translator express themselves clearly and forcefully in words, charts, and tables. A number of excellent photographs in color and black and white illustrate the book. A comprehensive bibliography emphasizes European and American contributions. The brief but useful notes on the history of the control of soil erosion include a tribute to the Soil Conservation Service in the U. S. A., pointing out its scientific and practical achievements in the preservation of natural resources.

Administrators, technicians, as well as laymen everywhere will find this a useful handbook; it can save much time and effort, both of which can so easily be wasted in an undertaking as complicated as a soil survey.—F. D. Hole, Soil Science Dept., University of Wisconsin.

Tropical Soils
(TROPISCHE BODEN)
By Arnold Finck. Published by Paul Parey Verlag, Hamburg and Berlin. 188 pp., 63 Illus. 1963. 26 DM.

The author provides a rather rare example of a treatise in which genetic types of tropical soils are viewed through a prism of crop production. Within the relatively limited space the book presents a very comprehensive outline of soils and agricultural practices in the frost-free regions of the world. The subject matter is treated under the following nine chapter headings: (1) Tropics as a zone of agricultural production; (2) Classification and survey of tropical soils; (3) Soils of humid tropics; (4) Soils of arid tropics; (5) Intrazonal soils; (6) Fertility of tropical soils; (7) Irrigation and amelioration of alkali soils; (8) Soil erosion and its control; (9) Land appraisal.

The discussions are based upon the author's personal experiences in the tropics and an exhaustive study of carefully selected international literature including recent contributions of American specialists. The book is indeed a welcome addition to the volume of literature on tropical soils, a volume which at the present is totally inadequate considering the agricultural output of these soils and the enormous population they support.

The text is a must for all German reading scientists interested in soils and agriculture of the tropics. The excellent, short-sentence German and concise formulation of basic pedological concepts render the book admirably well suited to graduate students in Soils and Agronomy who must fulfill their foreign language requirements.

The volume is beautifully published with superb photographic and drawn illustrations and an attractive linen binding. The German Scientific fraternity, the author and the publisher can very properly be proud of this contribution.—S. A. Wilde, Soil Science Dept., University of Wisconsin.

Application of Soil Genesio to Irrigation of Soils in Hungarian Lowland
(TALAJGENETIKAI ELVEK ALKALMAZASA AS ALFOLD ONTOZSENEL)

This publication has been prompted by the recent remarkable increase, nearly tenfold, of artificial irrigation on Hungarian soils. Under the semi-arid conditions of the Great Hun-

garian Lowland, this practice is complicated by the effect of applied water on biological and physico-chemical properties of soils, many of which belong to the Solonchak and related alkali soils. Successful irrigation, therefore, requires careful regulation of the amount and manner of watering, taking into consideration the morphology of the soil profile and the supply of Na+, Mg²⁺, and other exchangeable bases in both soil and irrigation water.

Hungarian soil scientists are well known for their meritorious contributions to our knowledge of alkali soils. These were advantageously used by the author, considerably extending his own research, and correlated with practical aspects of irrigation. The outstanding features of his treatise include: a comprehensive pedogenetic classification of simple terminology, a careful description of physico-chemical characteristics of each major soil type, and detailed management recommendations for irrigation of different soils. The volume is supplemented by four maps showing geographical distribution of soils requiring different irrigation treatments and of the chemical nature of surface and ground water.

The Hungarian text takes up 56 pages; the remaining 55 pages contain very well written, inclusive summaries in Russian, English, German and French. A very attractive cover of a durable plastic material and a looseleaf binding are very appropriate for this type of publication and deserve to be imitated. Soil specialists in different parts of the world especially those concerned with artificial irrigation and broader aspects of soil genesis, are likely to find that the contents of this publication merit their attention.—A. Wilde, Soil Science Department, University of Wisconsin.

Advances in Agronomy, Vol. 15

This latest volume in the series published under the auspices of the American Society of Agronomy continues its broad coverage in reviewing progress in agronomic research. The long-time editor of the series, Dr. A. C. Norman, points out the difficulty in identifying the exact boundaries of agronomy and that, realistically, there cannot be a separate "soils" treatment or "crops" treatment.

Articles included in Volume 15 are as follows:

1. Competition Among Crop and Pasture Plants, by C. M. Donald of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute of Adelaide, South Australia.
2. Chemistry of the Micronutrient Elements in Soils, by J. F. Hodgson of the University of Wisconsin.
6. Silica in Soils, by J. A. McKee of the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont., and M. G. Cline of Cornell University.—RCD

A Place to Live
Yearbook of Agriculture 1963

The editor points out in the preface that no subject is more meritorious than this to Americans and that the purpose of this Yearbook is "... to inform all Americans about the effects of urbanization and industrialization on rural America and the need for plans and action so that people will have a proper place to live. Many of the forces of change are most apparent in the urban-rural fringe, but our interest is in ... the interaction of rural and urban influences wherever they occur." General topics covered are: changes in people, land, water and air, farming, communities, government action, what can be done, and examples of what has been done to make it possible to achieve a proper place to live.—RCD.