BOOK REVIEWS

Proceedings of the International Potash Institute’s Third Regional Colloquium

The International Potash Institute has recently published the proceedings of its Third Regional Colloquium held in Lisbon, Portugal in April 1965. The 214-page booklet contains the complete texts of 23 technical papers as well as the relevant comments and conclusions from the group discussions. Papers deal with the effect of mineral fertilizers, especially potassium fertilizers, on the quality of grapes and wines, olives and olive oil, tomatoes, and cork. The booklet, entitled Le potassium et la qualité des produits agricoles (Raisins de table et vins, olives et huile d’olive, tomates, liège), is entirely in French. It may be obtained for $2.40 from: International Pótasch Institut, P. O. Box Berne 14, Berne, Switzerland.—RM

Abstracts of Rumanian Technical Literature

In 1965, the Institute for Technical Documentation in Bucharest began publishing a bulletin containing abstracts of original works of Rumanian technical literature. The abstracts are taken from articles in periodicals, books, works of research institutes, communications presented at national and international conferences, etc. They cover work in the fields of mining, metallurgical, mechanical, electrical, electronic, and chemical engineering; pharmacy; chemistry; agriculture; forestry; textiles; plastics; food; and wood, pulp, and paper, among others. The bulletin will be published quarterly in three different editions: English, French, and Russian. It is being sent abroad on an exchange basis. Microfilms of the works abstracted are available on request. For more information write to: Dr. J. Jianu, Director, Institutul d’Documentație Tehnică, Biblioteca (Schimb), Cosmonautilor, 27-29, București, Romania.—RM

A Biocenose do Solo no Producao Vegetal (Soil Biocenosis in Crop Production)


The authors, members of the staff at the Federal University of Santa Maria, have prepared this textbook covering the inter-relationship of all living factors within a given space in the soil. The eight chapters cover the following subjects: soil biocenosis, microorganisms, source of nitrogen in the soil, other sources of nitrogen, transformation of mineral substances in the soil, microlife and agricultural practices, soil pathogens, and formation of manure. The book is written in Portuguese with an English summary and was translated into German in 1965.

Agrochemical Methods of Soil Investigation (in Russian)

Edited by A. V. Sokolov and D. L. Askini, 1965, 4th Edition, “Nauka” Publisher, Moscow, Russia. 2 rubles, 87 kopecks. (This book may be ordered from Victor Kamkin Booksore, 1410 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009 at $1.50/copy.)

The book is published as a memorial on the 100th anniversary of D. N. Pyranishnikov’s birthday. He was the founder of Soviet agricultural chemistry. The fourth edition has been re-written and new material added. Glancing through the literature cited at the end of each section, the latest research papers include those published in 1964.

Seventeen authors have contributed to the volume. Methods of soil chemical analysis (one section is given on physical properties of soils, physical processes in soils, and the direction of their changes. The book is written according to this definition of soil physics. The title of the book is probably a misnomer for the American soil scientist since the contents of the book reveals that the subject matter deals entirely with the solid phase of the soil omitting several other important sections in soil physics. The book is an outcome of lectures given at the Moscow State University from 1930 until the present. Material presented is primarily for the undergraduate students in their fourth year of university.

The book is divided into six parts: brief history of soil physics, particle and microaggregate composition of soil, particle and bulk density of soils, soil porosity, specific surface area and surface energy of soils, and soil structure. Nearly one-half of the book is devoted to the particle- and microaggregate-size analysis. Perhaps, too much emphasis is given to the particle-size analysis. Such emphasis was true in soil physics 30 years ago in the USA. Microaggregate analysis of soils contains the size distribution of particles <250μ in diameter without any chemical pretreatment and only slight mechanical treatment. From the contents of the book we must include the