BOOK REVIEWS, continued

joined into a single sheet for mounting with the title, acknowledgment, legend, base information, etc., on the bottom or southern sheet. The southern sheet also includes the island of Corsica as an insert.

The geographic distribution of 26 soils classified at the group and subgroup levels in the French scheme is depicted through the use of 46 mapping units, each with its own distinctive color or color pattern. Also, where the “Sols d'alluvious marines” have been influenced by “Hydromorphie” or “Salinitie,” a blue-line overprint has been used.

The other strong features of the map are: (1) the use of colors and color patterns to symbolize the mapping units, and (2) the arrangement of these mapping units in the legend. Mapping units 1 through 18 are characterized in terms of one soil and except for unit 17, “Sols des dunes,” are shown by solid colors; the “Sols des dunes” are shown by a pattern of fine black dots against a white background. The remaining 28 mapping units are characterized in terms of two or more of the soils that comprise most of the single component mapping units. These 28 mapping units are shown by a pattern of colored lines, some vertical and others in a checkerboard pattern, and small squares, utilizing, with two exceptions, the colors used for the single-soil component mapping units.

The number of colors in the pattern used for any one of these 28 mapping units is indicative of the number of soils in that mapping unit, and, with one exception, the type of pattern is indicative of the presence or absence of “Lithosols” in the mapping unit. However, the arrangement of colors in the pattern symbolizing a unit does not always indicate the dominant soil in that unit although in some of the mapping units the background color is that of the first-mentioned soil.

In addition to the use of colors and patterns, each of the 46 mapping units is numbered. Not every delineation on the map, however, is overprinted with a map unit number. This poses no serious problem except in the delineation of the “Lithosols.” Areas of water and “Lithosols” are both white. There are areas of white areas on the map not overprinted with “18,” the number assigned to the mapping unit of “Lithosols”; therefore, the viewer is not certain whether these areas are delineations of “Lithosols” or bodies of water. This is a common problem on polychrome maps when white is used to depict one of the mapping units.

The base map is that of the Service de la Carte Geologique de la France with the meridians based on Paris. The rivers and their principal tributaries are shown and the names of the rivers are overprinted. The map carries the names of many cities and towns; however, no roads or railroads are shown. Although the names of the historical regions and those of old provinces are shown on the map, it does not show the boundaries and names of the modern political subdivisions. The reviewer also noticed that although there are names seeming to identify specific landforms on the southern sheet, none appear on the northern sheet.

Although the Carte Pedologique de la France appears to be in part schematic and in part a generalization from larger-scale soil maps, I feel that it has good reliability. Prof. Dupuis and his colleagues are to be congratulated, and the cartographers complimented, for their contribution to the field of soil geography. —John D. Rourke, Chief World Soil Geography Unit, Soil Conservation Service, USDA, Hyattsville, Md.

The Geography of the Soil

The Geography of the Soil is a book well written, well organized, and the contents are well documented. The book is small physically and quite short in content. The author is to be congratulated, and the cartographers, for their contribution to the field of soil geography.

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