

BOOK NOTICES

Geography in the Twentieth Century. *Griffith Taylor*, Editor. Philosophical Library, N. Y., Methuen, London. Second Edition, 1952. xiv+661 pp. \$8.75.

Twenty-two authors and the editor have combined their talents to present in 28 chapters, a great variety of geographical subjects. Part I consisting of six chapters is philosophical in character; Part II consisting of 10 chapters is concerned chiefly with the environment; and Part III containing 12 chapters treats of the special fields of geography.

The professional geographers will find in this volume a wide range of familiar concepts and subjects. The thought-provoking and challenging ideas of the editor are set forth in the six chapters that he contributed to the book. In this single volume there is a brief review of the French and German contributions to geographic science. Geomorphology, meteorology, climate and soils are discussed in a chapter devoted to each. A miscellany of subjects, such as the tropics, urban geography, cartography, aerial photography, settlements, regionalism, and many others are presented briefly.

The scientific and lay reader will find here a cross-section of the field of geography presented authoritatively and clearly. Another editor and a different group of authors probably would have had a different series of chapters but the undercurrent of geographical ideas would have been similar if not identical.

GUY-HAROLD SMITH.

The Improved Nut Trees of North America and How to Grow Them. *Clarence A. Reed and John Davidson*. Devin-Adair Company, Publishers, New York. 1954. xxv+404 pp. \$6.00.

It is a joy to find a book that is filled with the rich experiences of two authors that have lived long useful lives. Mr. Davidson wrote in his preface that Mr. Reed, "... is here no more." and now the same can be said of Mr. Davidson who died August 10 of this year, just a few days before this book was released.

Nut production both as a business and as a diversion from the routine task of earning a living has enjoyed much popularity in North America and this attractively printed and illustrated book will accelerate interest in this subject because of its scope which is so nicely indicated by its title. The style of writing is, I suspect, largely that of Mr. Davidson who was, this reviewer happens to know, a Unitarian minister, author, artist, business man, farmer and nut tree grower. With the author's successful careers in so many fields as a background it is not surprising that the text is both entertaining and informative for the beginner with nut trees as well as for the serious student of farming, horticulture, forestry, or wildlife conservation. This book will be an excellent source of information for years, and amateurs who desire to plant nut trees will find much practical information, at the price of a tree or two, that will enable them to avoid common errors and spend wisely of their labor and money. The reader will get a correct appreciation of an important subject and because this book is fine literature he will enjoy every minute of his educational experience.

CARL VENARD

Introductory Plant Science. *Henry T. Northen*. Ronald Press Company, New York. 1953. vi+601 pp. \$5.50.

This general botany contains the most interesting and challenging collection of photographs and illustrations the reviewer has seen in such a volume. The organization of the material is skillful and usable though it would not suit all botanists. Whose plan of presentation of the plant sciences could be universally acceptable? Food manufacture for example stops with photosynthesis. There is a fairly long break before fat and protein syntheses appear in a chapter headed metabolism. While this is concise, it has some other disadvantages.

Coverage of the subject is good. The author has a pleasing way of interpolating a salient fact here and there that makes lively reading and combines excellently to point up the illustrations. There is no mention of laboratory work or of field work in the text as it appears not to be the fashion to make a complete class book out of an introductory work. The section on ecology and conservation would be much improved were the value of field studies brought in at this point.

A word that has wide use but is particularly annoying to the reviewer is *ovary* for *ovulary*. But this is not enough to detract from the value of the book as a whole upon which both publisher and author deserve congratulations.

A. E. WALLER