# NEW BOOKS

#### Advances in Agronomy

Vol. 4. Edited by A. G. Norman, xi + 416 pages. Academic Press, Inc., 125 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y. 1952. \$8.50. Reviewed by M. S. Anderson, USDA, Beltsville, Md.

Volume 4 follows the general pattern of the three preceding volumes. Soil and plant science problems are discussed from widely varied viewpoints. Minor elements are given particular consideration. The chapter on copper in nutrition reviews the nutritional status of this element in different countries of the world. Rapidly changing theories regarding the place of this element in nutrition are discussed.

Another chapter deals with manganese in soils and in plants. Deficiency symptoms in different kinds of plants are discussed; foliar spray methods of correcting deficiencies are also described.

Three of the nine chapters of the book are written by authors in countries other than the United States. "Grassland Agronomy in Australia" covers many phases of plant and soil science in rela-

tion to pasture improvement in that country. Additions of phosphates and trace or minor elements are particularly emphasized. It would seem that some information regarding the phosphorus content of Australian soils would add greatly to a reader's knowledge of the soils of that country.

Readers should particularly welcome the chapter on atomic energy and plant sciences prepared by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Many experimental developments in the field of atomic science are reviewed. The national program of research in plant sciences is summarized in three tables: one table lists the projects under way in national laboratories and totally supported university projects; another lists the partially supported research in soils, fertilizer, and plant nutrition at various institutions; and a third table lists projects in supporting subjects such as biochemistry and genetics.

Vegetation control on industrial lands is written by an author in industry. This excellent chapter could be of even greater value to agricultural readers if a few more references to the work of agricultural institutions were included.

A chapter on the soil and vegetation of forests covers 69 pages, and is indeed a miniature monograph on the subject.

## Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry

Vol. 7. C. S. Hudson, M. L. Wol-FROM, and S. M. CANTOR, editors. ix + 370 pages. Academic Press Inc., New York, N. Y. 1952. \$7.50

 ${f T}$ HIS newest volume, like its forbears, should be useful for those who are unable to keep up with all of the original research coming out in the various phases of carbohydrate chemistry. It is, again like its predecessors, composed of very complete and authoritative reviews of limited parts of carbohydrates and each chapter is well endowed with bibliography and references to original research.

The reviews of fructose, psicose, sorbose, and tagatose, and of the 2-amino sugars cover subjects that have not been adequately treated before. Modern

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By A. N. PURI, Director, University Institute of Chemistry, and Director, Field Research Station Trust, Labore, India

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