

NEW BOOKS

Hanna's Handbook of Agricultural Chemistry

LESTER W. HANNA. xvi + 209 pages. West Coast Printing and Binding Co., Portland, Oregon. 1953. \$3.25. Reviewed by ALLEN B. LEMMON, Department of Agriculture, State of California.

Hanna's Handbook of Agricultural Chemicals, by Lester W. Hanna, fills a long felt need for a convenient reference book for the field man. Its handy size, 5" x 8", fits a large pocket for ease of carrying and its 225 pages provide a storehouse of information often needed but difficult to remember.

The field of agricultural chemicals is very broad and the various phases are handled by chapters devoted to fertilizer, fumigants, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides. The numerous chemicals now in common use are listed under the respective chapters with a brief statement for each of its chemical nature and characteristics, uses, and toxicity. Necessary cautions are emphasized and the wise and efficient use of agricultural chemicals is stressed throughout the handbook.

In general, the information is accurate and concise. Where important information has been omitted it stands out as an exception. For example, there is no discussion of so called low-volatile esters of 2,4-D and their advantages over the highly volatile forms nor of the specialized herbicides used as defoliant and pre-harvest foliage driers. Also, there is no mention of the classification as to unsulfonated residue and distillation range that has been in common use for petroleum oils used as foliage spray oils, particularly on citrus.

Although a Trivial Code of Entomological Terms for use in making slides, charts, graphs, and labels is included, there is no complete list of common names, nicknames, and number names for pesticides. Such a list would be quite helpful, particularly as the author often lists the chemicals by these terms and a cross-reference is needed. There are numerous places where reference is made to a tradename of a product without it being clearly identified as a tradename and not a common name.

It is questionable if so much space should be devoted to electronic insect and weed control. This seems to be the only place in the handbook where credence is placed on testimonials.

The pictures seem well chosen to illustrate particular points of interest.

Complicated structural formulas and involved technical explanation have been avoided.

The handbook is useful to all who wish somewhat more than a dictionary but who do not desire to carry a large reference library with them.

Into the Freezer—And Out

DONALD K. TRESSLER, CLIFFORD F. EVERS, AND BARBARA H. EVERS. viii + 246 pages. Avi Publishing Co., Inc., New York 3, N. Y. Reviewed by R. C. A. BRADSHAW, British Joint Services Mission, Washington, D. C.

THE TITLE hardly does justice to this homemakers manual of freezing since it contains a wealth of miscellaneous information besides items of direct application to freezing. In particular, the recommendations as to type and size of freezer, the vegetable and fruit planting and harvesting guide, and the detailed instructions on preparation and freezing of fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and seafood are excellent. These are followed by good, practical recipes in which frozen products are used.

The chapter on the dressing of game and fish will be of much interest to the family sportsman and mention should be made of the hints on mutual co-operation directed at the locker plant operator and the locker plant user.

It is a pity that on occasion the authors find it necessary to present this good material in language which becomes noticeably "folksy" and they are also not averse to presenting the split infinitive in cold print. It is considered that the opening chapter could have been omitted, together with some of the more general background on research (Chapter VI). For the layman's benefit, also, it would be an advantage if Chapter V could be rearranged or clarified. It is suggested that the facts that are presented in this chapter might be assimilated more readily if set out in tabular form.

Apart from these minor criticisms, the authors are to be congratulated on the over-all layout of their publication. The illustrations showing the types of packages, the methods of preparing fruits and vegetables for freezing, cuts of meat, etc. are instructive and easily understood. The index to this publication has been found to be accurate and the appendix, which presents a partial

list of State and Federal publications covering the home freezing of foods, is a very useful innovation that is to be recommended for all such manuals. The book is well bound and sold in an attractive wrapper.

In general, this publication is a reference handbook on the many aspects of home freezing which any progressive homemaker would do well to purchase. For the household which has not yet entered the field of home freezing, the book contains a balanced presentation of the considerations which are involved before such a decision is made.

Pesticide Handbook (1953)

DONALD E. H. FREAR. 202 pages, 5 ed. College Science Publishers, State College, Pennsylvania. Paper, \$1.25, Cloth, \$3.00. Reviewed by R. ROSHER, Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del.

Workers with pesticides who are not acquainted with previous editions of this useful handbook should be urged to obtain, or at least become familiar with, the latest edition. It contains the most complete listing of pesticide materials which this reviewer has seen, and its arrangement makes for most convenient use.

There are 5017 trade named pesticides in the newest edition, which is an appreciable increase over the 4360 in the 1952 edition. To the three sections (trade names, active ingredients, and manufacturers) of the latter, a fourth one containing the names of Pest Control Operators has been added. This should prove a convenience to many who already depend on the handbook for helping to solve their pest problems, as well as make it attractive to some who previously had no reason for using it. Salesmen of pesticides, and people not familiar with the technical aspects of pest control, would be among the latter.

Other innovations in the present work include sections on Systemic Insecticides (eleven listings), Nutritional Dusts and Sprays (ten), and Soil Conditioners (two). Two groups of insecticides which appeared in the 1952 edition have been omitted in the 1953 edition. These are Animal Dips and Screw Worm Smears. Omission of the former is rather surprising and may be due to an error. However, William Cooper and Nephews, Inc., an important producer of animal dips, has also been left out of the list of manufacturers.