

Reviews of Local Publications.

From a perusal of the recent publications of the Scientific departments of the surrounding countries one is struck with a noticeable change in the type of article now appearing. Hitherto one has had the preliminary records and interim reports of the pioneer who tackled any subject that from time to time assumed economical importance. Now one sees on all sides attempts to sum up the information so far gathered and published piecemeal and the result is a series of comprehensive papers, one might almost say monographs, which are now appearing and which deal exhaustively so far as our knowledge up to date goes of whole subjects rather than isolated and unconnected items. It would seem that the first period of preliminary investigation of the pioneer who was an all round scientific and technical man has closed and that in future the specialists who have been arriving in these parts in recent years will each conduct his investigations henceforth in a much more restricted field but correspondingly probing into his subject all the more deeply.

In illustration of these comprehensive articles referred to the following are representative.

Plantes et produits filamenteux et textiles de l'Indochine. Crevost et Lemasie. Bulletin Economique de l'Indochine, 1919, No. 138. A brief description is given of each plant and the manner in which the fibre is obtained. The plants are arranged according to their Natural Orders. The article is illustrated by fifteen wood cuts which greatly facilitate the determination of the plants, and five photographs shewing plantations and the preparation of fibres.

Studies of Philippine Bananas. E. Q. y Arguelles. The Philippine Agricultural Review Vol. XII, No. 3. This is a comprehensive study of the varieties of bananas in cultivation in the Philippines. It is estimated that the College of Agricultural has over 600 varieties under culture and about one third of them have been definitely identified. A key is given which enables these varieties to be recognised, and is followed by descriptions of varieties of *Musa sapientum*. Thirty four plates are given at the conclusion of the article which enables one readily to distinguish the differences between the different kinds of flowers and fruits.

A biological and systematic study of Philippine Plant Galls. L. B. Uichanco. The Philippine Journal of Science Vol. XIV No. 5. This subject has been treated in a series of articles on Javanese, Sumatran and Celebes galls by W. and J. Docters Van Leenwen-Reijman of Buitenzorg, but the present article on the Philippine galls is in English and therefore much more accessible to residents of Malay.

The galls and their causative insect agents are described in detail and the fifteen plates accompanying the article greatly assist in their identification.

Bamboos. To anyone interested in bamboos the handbook on this subject by Brown and Fischer issued as Bulletin No. 15 of the Philippine Bureau of Forestry is a most useful work. A key is given by which the species can be determined in the field from general observation and without entering into minute detail. General descriptions of the species are given, cultural notes and the results of observations of the plant grown in plantations. Thirty three photographic plates shewing the characteristics of the species individually and in plantations increases the value of the work.

Philippine Mangrove Swamps. W. H. Brown and A. F. Fischer. Bulletin No. 7 of the Bureau of Forestry of the Philippines is devoted to an account of Mangrove swamps. A list of species to be found in the swamps is given and a special key based on superficial characters which enables one to ascertain the name of anything down to a fern. Although primarily a study in the Philippines, Malay native names are included which greatly enhances its value to us in Malaya. A general description is given of each species and the cultivation of mangrove forests and their estimated yield of timber is recorded. Its economical uses are considered both as a firewood and as a tanbark and dye. A chapter is devoted to the uses and cultivation of the Nipa Palm. The whole booklet is lavishly illustrated by photographs and forms a valuable addition to the handbooks of special ecological formations of this part of the world.

Fruit Culture in Malaya. J. N. Milsum. The F. M. S. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 29. This book bringing together our knowledge of local fruit trees and their cultivation has long been needed, and the want is supplied in the present publication. The author begins with a discussion of the past and present position of fruit cultivation and then suggests lines on which local fruits can be improved. General methods of cultivation are given and discussion on soil and diseases.

The article concludes with descriptions of fruit trees according to their general utility, and suitable localities. Twenty three excellent photographs of fruits and trees are included in the work.

Food Production in Malaya. F. G. Spring and J. N. Milsum. F. M. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 30. This is a companion volume to the preceeding and treats of the cultivation of food crops in general from all points of view.

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