An Outline of Forestry.


The object of this book is to provide an outline of the whole field of Forestry for the student on his approach to the subject, and for the interested layman. It does not purport to give detailed information for the guidance of practical foresters. The subject is dealt with in four sections: (i.) Forest Policy, occupying only seven pages; (ii.) Forest Econometrics (Foundations of Silviculture, Practice of Silviculture, Protection); (iii.) Forest Economics (Valuation and Finance, Mensuration, Utilization); (iv.) Forest Management (General, Regulation of Yield, Working Plan.)

The most valuable section of this survey is the admirable sketch of the ecological foundations of silviculture. Being fundamental biological truths they have universal application. Unfortunately the other sections have been written mainly from the British and European viewpoint. Thus, in discussing volume measurement, the quarter-girth method is emphasised while the board foot is not mentioned.

It is a pity that in a work of this nature the historical and economic aspects of forestry have received such scant treatment. The more recent developments leading up to the present British forest policy are mentioned, but Britain's condition has long been abnormal. An outline of the social and economic growth responsible for the present status of forestry in Europe and the "newer" countries would enable the prospective forester to appreciate the limits within which forestry practice can be developed in his own country.

However, the book certainly provides a comprehensive answer to the question: "What do you foresters do?" And could be read to advantage by those in a position to influence our ill-informed popular opinion on forestry matters.

G.H.H.


The selenium method of seed testing, as devised by the author and officially introduced by the "Reichsforstamt" in a Decree of September, 1937, for the testing of beech and douglas fir seed, is based on the property of living plant tissue to reduce selenium solutions; a process associated with a distinct red colouring of the reducing tissue due to the liberation of pure selenium. The technique of the test is as follows:—