tions on electronic computers is only mentioned in less than half a page. I question that a modern textbook purporting to examine yield regulation can afford this degree of imbalance.

The preparation of working plans is probably the most important chapter in the book. Mr Osmaston suggests a comprehensive format on traditional lines. The contents and layout are a matter of individual taste, but today, when the conflict between what is desirable and what is feasible is highlighted by faster and faster progress, guidance on priorities within the framework as a whole would have helped readers. Furthermore, there is serious contradiction here with developments in forest management outlined in the final chapter. Thus, it is axiomatic that, if computers revolutionize forest management (and Mr Osmaston recognizes this claim), there must be critical re-appraisal of working plan formats. In short, the forest manager of the future might well work with a computer terminal at his right hand, not a bulky written document, and he would interrogate and update these files of data by and on computer. The written plan would then become a short document containing a summary of the facts together with the constraints required by management that are written into the computer programs which operate the system.

I began the final chapter eagerly, but was sadly disillusioned long before the end. Treatment of the early history of forestry is misleading through neglect of soundly documented evidence; that of the last millenium is confined to England (not Britain), France, Germany and their near neighbours on the Continent. No mention is made of the rich history in Scandinavia, and Scots will deplore the absence to any reference to many pertinent developments north of the Tweed and in the Highlands in particular. One looks in vain, too, for a mention of the impact of silvicultural practices like Craib's on management of plantations, or management practices in Scandinavia, recent developments in North America, and so on.

This book is of historical interest to foresters in New Zealand, and is possibly a useful reference for undergraduate study because of its good discursive treatment of management principles.

A. G. D. Whyte


The Australian Forestry and Timber Bureau is to be congratulated on producing this comprehensive work for the benefit of country folk interested in growing trees. To one of a group of farm foresters who have felt the need for such a book, its four hundred pages of closely-packed informative writing is overwhelming in its thoroughness, making it painfully clear that Big Brother across the Tasman has beaten us to the punch again — and so well!
The main authors are Alan Brown, who recently visited this country, and Norman Hall, born in Northland, both of whom will be well known to our graduates from the Canberra School of Forestry. Eight other authors, each a leader in his field, have contributed with chapters dealing with homestead and landscape planting; silviculture in all its aspects from nursery practice to study of forest soils; sobering notes on protection against animals, insects, diseases and fire; aspects of finance and taxation; timber uses; and so on. The result is a bit like the platypus; each part is admirable, but the conjunction of the parts is sometimes curious! However, there is no chapter which is not well-written, and each contains much that is common to both Australia and New Zealand. There is a refreshing breadth to much of this; the authors are interested in species other than radiata pine, and there are many differences in their approach to silviculture, born of good basic research into the spacing and thinning of eucalypts done by M. Jacobs. Those who might be blinded by the effulgence from the Economics Section of the Forest Research Institute in New Zealand could profitably pause and glance at these ideas.

The chapter containing notes on the more important species, one hundred and one all told, is well done, with much valuable information on all the more useful eucalypts likely to be planted in New Zealand. There are sound notes on exotic conifers also, most of which are equally applicable to this country. However, some subjects are treated very briefly, including wood preservation — an important matter for farm foresters; however, information is available elsewhere on this subject, and some excellent pamphlets have been published by the N.S.W. Forestry Commission and by the CSIRO.

The illustrations in black and white are topical and clearly printed; a number of John Johns’ New Zealand photographs have been used to good effect. Incidentally, the Editor of the Journal will be interested in an excellent illustration of “twizzling” in Plate 38.

Writing on forestry for farmers is no easy task. Short articles for agricultural periodicals, and brightly illustrated pamphlets on clear-cut aspects of farm forestry seem to be the general rule, and these too the Australians do very well. The normal forestry textbook is not what is wanted and books dealing factually with the whole subject of farm forestry are rare. This book fills the need admirably, and will be a valuable reference work for farmers both in Australia and New Zealand. It should also be much appreciated by farm advisory officers of Government departments concerned. The authors are to be congratulated on what must have been a long and sustained effort.

N. A. BARR

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