BOOK REVIEWS


This is a translation of a book written by one German and one French author. Published in 1970, it reviews and describes fertilizer trials and use in forests, up to about 1965. Despite the claim that the authors have evaluated the international literature, this is a book on European — particularly German and French — practice. Only 40 of the 650 or 700 references are from outside Europe. Except for one reference to phosphate in Australia, there is no account of the work done in Australia and New Zealand on deficiencies of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, boron, zinc and copper. New Zealand is mentioned only in relation to aerial topdressing in farming, and it is implied that (quite contrary to our experience) uniform distribution of fertilizers over forests can easily be achieved.

Pinyus radiata is not mentioned, but pines are described as having "a remarkable requirement for potash", and Douglas fir has a "very high" potassium requirement. These sound strange in a country where known potassium responses in forest trees are confined to such peculiar areas as the "pakihi" soils of Westland and the "mineral belt" soils of Nelson. It seems that the authors have confused the potassium requirements of trees with the requirements of their potassium-deficient soils to grow trees successfully.

This is certainly not a handbook for the New Zealand forest manager as it has no direct, and little indirect, application to New Zealand forestry. It is, however, a well-produced book with excellent illustrations: the 45 colour prints are first class. It will be of considerable interest to those engaged in fertilizer research in countries outside Europe as it provides a good appreciation of European forest soils and fertilizer research — a basis against which to assess their own.

G. M. Will


This soft-covered, ring-bound book is described as "an up-to-date register on who is doing what in the fields of forestry and forest products" in the member countries of the Asian and Pacific Council (AS PAC) — that is, Australia, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam (with Laos as an observer). ASPAC was set up in