

Book Reviews

Economic geography of the USSR. S. S. Balzak, V. F. Vasyutin, and Ya. G. Feigin. (Eds.) New York: Macmillan, 1949. Pp. xlv + 619. (Illustrated.) \$10.00.

This is a volume which opens with a quotation from Stalin, and closes with reference to polar fliers who "are ready, if it becomes necessary, to transfer from civilian to military planes and destroy the enemy, wherever he may be." Between these two items, unusual in a volume of economic geography, are four comprehensive chapters on natural resources, industry, agriculture, and transport as seen by the geographer, plus three ideological treatises on the Soviet interpretation of production and population under tsar and socialism.

Economic geography of the USSR is nonetheless valuable if it combines excellent geography with partisan ideas, for the Soviet lands cannot be understood without both. With major reservations, this promises to be the definitive volume on Soviet geography. It was originally published in 1940, largely with 1935 data, and is here translated under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies with the editorship of Chauncey D. Harris. This is the only comprehensive geography of the Soviet Union ever to be published in Russian and its translation is a major event. Fifty-three tables, 83 maps, and six appendices provide a wide array of information nowhere else available; in fact, the American translators have materially enriched the original volume.

It is now clear that the USSR is second only to the USA in the wealth of its resources:

Thus, the USSR has diverse natural conditions and natural riches such as are possessed by no other country in the world. "From the standpoint of natural wealth, we are completely secure. We have even more than we need." But in order to put these natural riches completely into the service of the working people, in order to create an abundance of all kinds of products, "there must be a government with the desire and the power to direct the utilization of this huge national wealth for the benefit of the people. Do we have such a government? We do."

(Quotation from Stalin.) What is also clear, although not stated by the authors, is that limitations of cold, drought, and continentality place permanent restrictions on economic developments. One might suggest that in academic terms, the best "grade" the Soviet lands may hope to receive under any conditions of government is no better than an A-. This is, to be sure, a creditable rating, although not yet achieved.

Two sentences, chosen at random, reflect Soviet thinking:

The capitalist town subjugated the village and artificially retarded its cultural development. For this reason, in the eyes of the peasants the town was always the focus of their exploitation. . . . The Marxist-Leninist understanding of the role of the natural-geographic environment has nothing in common with crude geographic theories . . . as explained by bourgeois geographers and economists. . . .

GEORGE B. CRESSEY

Syracuse University

Veterinary helminthology. Banner Bill Morgan and Philip A. Hawkins. Minneapolis 15, Minn.: Burgess Publ., 1949. Pp. ix + 400. (Illustrated.) \$7.00.

Everyone who deals with animals knows that there is a whole world of parasitic life associated with them. Probably everyone but a specialist with a bulging reprint library, however, would be astonished to know what an extraordinarily abundant and diverse part of this fauna the helminths represent. Morgan and Hawkins, in their text and reference book, have undertaken the formidable task of digesting this literature with reference to "animals of veterinary importance in North America" for the first time. The result is an impressive 400-page volume of encapsulated information, concerning both hosts and worms, species by species.

Following a general introduction (36 pp.) there are chapters on the helminths of the horse (32 pp.), of cattle (38 pp.), of sheep and goats (55 pp.), of swine (36 pp.), of the dog and cat (57 pp.), of poultry (45 pp.), of fur bearers (44 pp.), and on diagnosis (20 pp.). There is an appendix, principally of host lists (13 pp.), and a comprehensive index (14 pp.).

The authors deal with over 130 genera and about three times that many species. Drawing on an extensive teaching experience, they present for each species selective information—so far as possible—on synonyms, common name, disease, morphology, life history, symptoms, pathology, diagnosis, treatment, and control. Supplementing the text are keys for identification of various groups and life history stages, and 63 plates of line drawings and maps. From the degree of attention accorded them, the parasites of greatest interest in this field in America are *Fasciola hepatica*, *Moniezia expansa*, *Oesophagostomum columbianum*, *Haemonchus contortus*, *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*, *Ascaris lumbricoides*, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Ancylostoma caninum*, and *Dirofilaria immitis*. Besides emphasis on the veterinary problem, as such, relationships between parasitized domestic and wild animals and helminthic infections of man are considered.

The volume is a useful encyclopedic work, although it shows, as a first edition, certain rough spots in phrasing and proofreading. One is tempted even in a general review to raise a few questions, however. An idea tacit throughout the presentation seems debatable in our present understanding of worm-host relations—namely, that "an animal infected with worms is suffering from helminthiasis" (italics by reviewer). The verb implies as a rule more than is frequently true physiologically. Immunizing infections with worms are briefly discussed, and whereas up to now artificial immunization has not been as fruitful a procedure with helminths as with certain other parasitic agents, it is scarcely correct to say that "the introduction of suspensions of helminths or dead helminths into the host has not resulted in the production of any immunity" (p. 7). One misses a chapter on the