

Two considerations should be kept in mind by those who use this work:

(1) Pedigree information collected by students for course credit is sometimes faked (usually with reference to published sources). The author has seemingly made such checks as were possible regarding this source of error (cf. p. 1).

(2) The data as presented are not sufficient in themselves to establish the degree or the mode of inheritance for any of the mentioned characters. The history of genetic knowledge of the ABO blood groups is here an object lesson on the limitations of pedigree inspection. In spite of a relative abundance of pedigree data for a character set which shows full penetrance and constant expressivity, an incorrect (meaning much less probable) mode of inheritance of the ABO system was accepted for more than twenty years. In human genetics, degree and mode of inheritance can be considered well established only when results are concordant for all of three types of tests: (a) pedigree analysis, (b) gene frequency statistical tests, and (c) twin studies.

These strictures are not passed in criticism of Prof. Gates. He has done an admirable job with the available information. But his information should be considered a start, and not a finish. Some of the data is of sufficient bulk to permit statistical analysis; for example, more than fifty cases each are recorded for color blindness, baldness, polydactyly, allergy, and musical ability.

J. N. SPÜHLER

Ohio State University

**Trees: Yearbook of agriculture, 1949.** (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.) Alfred Stefferud. (Ed.) Washington (25), D. C.: Supt. of Documents, 1949. Pp. xiv + 944. (Illustrated.) \$2.00.

The 1949 yearbook of agriculture, *Trees*, is the tenth of a series of reference volumes prepared by the Department of Agriculture since 1936, when the annual progress report and statistical summary content was discontinued. This is the third of the series to be edited by Alfred Stefferud. Like the others, it represents the cooperative effort of a great many individuals, most of whom are or have been members of the Department of Agriculture, with the majority from the U. S. Forest Service.

The contents consist of 138 separate short treatises grouped together under four broad headings, namely: "The Tree," "Trees and Homes," "Forests and Men," and "Lists and Other Aids."

"The Tree" includes an exceptionally concise discussion of tree growth and development, considerable miscellaneous information about noteworthy and historical trees, and a question and answer section that the reviewer believes rightfully belongs under "Lists and Other Aids."

"Trees and Homes" considers trees from the arboricultural viewpoint. It includes descriptive lists of shade and ornamental trees for town and country and various geographical regions, as well as pointers on the establishment and care of these trees.

"Forests and Men" comprises about two-thirds of the yearbook and deals rather broadly with the entire gamut of forestry activities in the United States. It is subdivided into several sections that cover the following aspects of forestry: ecology; seeding and planting; genetics; management and care of private and public forests; protection from insects, diseases, parasites, and fire; wildlife; water relations; wood utilization; history; economics and policy.

"Lists and Other Aids" is essentially an appendix to the main text of the book. It presents information on tree and wood identification, including useful diagnostic keys and helpful illustrations, lists of trees for special purposes, a vacation guide locating and in part describing forest areas administered by the federal government and the states, a reference bibliography, and a woodsman's glossary.

In addition to the black and white text illustrations, there is a 16-page section of colored plates "chosen to summarize the main points in this book and to awaken interest in the purposes and pleasures of trees and forests."

Prepared by well-qualified authorities and carefully and objectively written, the book succeeds in its purpose of relating to the general public in considerable detail a very important phase of the work of the Department of Agriculture. At the same time, the volume will take its place as a readable, reliable, and unusually complete compendium of tree and forestry facts for teachers and others who would like society to make more effective use of this renewable organic resource. Throughout its pages there is a strong undertone of sound conservation of natural resources, a guide to action that we must adopt if we are to give future generations a chance to attain a reasonably adequate standard of living. The book is highly recommended.

ROBERT A. COCKRELL

University of California, Berkeley

