

## Book Reviews

**Weeds.** W. C. Muenscher. Macmillan, New York, ed. 2, 1955. 560 pp. Illus. \$10.

This new edition describing 571 species, with reference to some 40 other weeds and poisonous plants, presents the most comprehensive survey of the weeds of the northern United States and Canada yet available. It compares with the 225 weeds listed in *Weeds of the North Central States* (Univ. of Illinois, Agri. Expt. Sta. Circ. 718, 1954) and the 437 in *Weeds of California* (California Dept. of Agri., Sacramento, 1951). Since no one work exists on the North American weed flora, the total species can only be estimated at somewhat less than 1000.

The leading families with total species are *Compositae* (120), *Gramineae* (65), *Cruciferae* (40), *Leguminosae* (33), with the following genera including the largest number of species: *Polygonum* (15), *Chenopodium* (12), *Cuscuta* (11), *Centaurea* (10), and *Bidens* (7).

The chapters on weed biology are taken verbatim from the 1935 edition, and no new material beyond 1934 is specifically cited. In advancing from weed "chopping" to chemical control, an even greater knowledge is required of the biology and ecology of the individual weed species than ever before. The bibliography of 321 items shows an increase of 41 over earlier printings, and certain chapters list new sources of material, such as the proceedings of the regional weed control conferences and the "Bibliography of weed investigations" published in the journal *Weeds*. As the preface states, little attention has been given to chemical control measures. This is indeed unfortunate, since a wealth of such information has now been accumulated. To have listed the sensitivity of certain weed species to 2,4-D alone would have been most useful. The author has not acknowledged the significance of 20 years' additional experience with biological control.

The newly added weeds include species of *Rumex*, *Halogeton*, *Silene*, *Spergula*, *Ranunculus*, *Descurainia*, *Aegopodium*, *Ampelamus*, *Ellisia*, *Veronica*, *Linaria*, *Campsis*, *Bidens*, *Cnicus*, *Eupatorium*, and *Parthenium*. Six new figures illustrating ten of these are included. No reference has been made to the extensive

literature on two weeds of current concern, *Halogeton glomeratus*, and giant foxtail (*Setaria faberii*).

Emil Korsmo has stated that in the northern temperate zone the weed flora may constitute 8 to 10 percent of the entire vegetation. When based on species number, the 571 species here listed make up 10 percent of the 5523 species covered in the area of *Gray's Manual* (9th ed.) range. Another example might be cited in the 413 weeds listed for New York State (*Cornell Ext. Bull.* 891), which is 14 percent of the 2876 species included in the state flora. Such an aggressive element of our flora certainly is a constant threat to agriculture and requires that the newest techniques be applied and that better control methods be provided by continued research.

The illustrations are excellent, and many provide some aspect of the weed well enough (for example *Erigeron canadensis*) to enable one to identify it immediately. Should a future edition be prepared, distribution maps and the use of the vertical column for flowering dates (as in Deam's *Flora of Indiana*, Indianapolis, 1940) would greatly enhance the usefulness of the work.

This work with detailed keys for identification and full descriptions still provides our best illustrated guide to the weed flora of an important area of the country.

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**Schools of Psychoanalytic Thought.** An exposition, critique, and attempt at integration. Ruth L. Munroe. Dryden, New York, 1955. xvi + 670 pp. \$7.50.

This book contains the best bird's-eye view of psychoanalytic thought ever written. It presents each school competently and sympathetically. It brings out common factors and differences without the polemical flavor always present when protagonists of one school criticize another. It is sensibly organized around Freud's work but does not spare a critique of Freud along with other thinkers.

But what kind of bird do you have to

be in order to get the force of this over-all view? I think you have to be a pretty rare one. Ideally, you should be a psychoanalyst who has a stock of daily-life experiences to attach to the special terms that are used; or, better still, you should be a researcher who has submitted himself seriatim to treatment by a practitioner of each of the schools and has thus acquired the special experiences needed to give meaning to the terms used by each. My general point is that this comparison of theories is not a good introductory book for anyone, does not simplify matters for the layman, and can be unreservedly recommended only to specialists of some one of the several schools. For them it will be a valuable reference work.

Personally I got a good deal out of the book, although taken as a whole it is a terrible dose to be read in a few sittings. I was glad to be reminded of the firm biological and genetic anchorage of Freud's theory, its delicate and powerful sketch of the organ systems of the body as they develop under cultural pressure. I agreed that Freud's system could stand further development in terms of the "self-concept" or Ego theory. Adler's notion of a "life-style" has always been stimulating, but it seems to me, as to Ruth Monroe, that it fails to give an adequate account of childhood. Horney's emphasis on "basic anxiety" is an important organizing concept, and she appears as the expert therapeutic tactician that I knew her to be. Fromm is the social philosopher, grounded in analysis, but more interested in a critique of our way of life than in a theory of personality. Sullivan's idea of the repression of the organized self in schizophrenia still seems of extraordinary value; in some odd way his eyes were unmisted to facts that are blurred for most of us. Jung gave me an emotional thrill this time, as he always does. There is something eerie, poetic, and perceptive about his terms and his theories—but the notion of the "racial unconscious" seems to be refuted by genetic and anthropological fact. The impassioned Rank, with his view of "will" and "counter-will" coiled in eternal struggle, also has something that is important to say about man, but his history of the individual life is beclouded. At the end, after the canvass of theories, one returns to Freud, refreshed but relieved, to see man's struggle pretty much as he sees it.

Munroe does not say (although she ought to) that this whole field should not be viewed as "finished science" but rather as exploratory work looking toward science. There is no mention of observer reliability, validity, correlation, experiment, or reinforcement. There is a sense in which we have no science in this field, because we have no "data"; but recordings of analytic proceedings can now be