

VII. BOOK REVIEWS

(cntd from p.270)

- Q u i s u m b i n g, E. Medicinal plants of the Philippines.  
Republic of the Philippines. Dept. of  
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Techn.  
Bull. no 16, Manila 1951, 1234 pp.,  
8°.

In addition to W.H.Brown's works Dr Quisumbing has completed our knowledge of useful Philippine plants by the compilation of a big volume which contains a mine of information of over 1000 different species. Preceded by an introduction, the systematic sequence is adopted for families, genera and species. Each species is provided with a list of its synonyms, local names, a popular description, and a digestion of its phytochemical and medicinal literature.

There is an appendix on miscellaneous economic algae, one on edible and poisonous fungi, one on Philippine plants reported to cause hayfever or asthma, some fungi causing skin disease, a list of cyanophoric plants, a bibliography of 630 articles and books, and several indices. This book is of great use to all students of Malaysian botany. Dr Quisumbing who wrote it mostly before the war is to be congratulated with its excellent production.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis

- K a l s h o v e n, L.G.E. De plagen van de cultuurgewassen in Indonesië. Vol.2. W.van Hoeve Ltd.  
The Hague, Holland. Cloth bound Dutch  
guld. fl.39,50, pp.511-1065, fig.  
299-579, 16 coloured plates. With an  
English translation of the text for  
illustrations in vol.1-2.

This is the second richly illustrated volume of Kalshoven's magnum opus on the pests of Indonesian crops, the first volume of which appeared in 1950. In this volume the following groups have been treated: Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and Mammalia. The volume is concluded by a valuable chapter containing a systematic index to the plants attacked by pests, a list of abbreviations, and an index. For botanists specially the chapter containing the systematic index is a valuable compilation. For those living in the tropics this work will prove of great interest and value. The execution is exemplary; volume one was arranged among the 50 best got-up Netherlands books for 1950. The author (and his collaborators among whom the Indonesian artists who made the drawings) is to be congratulated with this endeavour

to compile a unique collection of data useful for tropical agriculture.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis

K r a e m e r, J.H. Trees of the Western Pacific region.  
Tri-State Offset Company, 817 Main  
Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio; small 8°,  
clothbound \$ 5.50, 436 pp., 157 fig.

This book is more or less an outcome of the world war, during which there was need for a handy guide to the woods of the Pacific theater of operations. In this work a selection has been made of a number of the most common valuable trees occurring in the Indochinese Peninsula and Malaysia, of which 119 genera are represented by 178 species. This is of course only a fraction of the total number of arboreous species which runs in many thousands. The plates, which are tolerably well done, are accompanied by a concise description, vernacular names, characters of wood and bark and a note on their distribution. Highly technical terms are avoided. Families are arranged to the Engler-Prantl system. Some brief introductory chapters include information on the collecting of samples in the field, thatch materials available in the region, tables of strength values of the wood and durability of the wood. A brief glossary, a bibliography, and an index are added. The work has no botanical value, but it will be of some use as a guide to laymen and officials who have to deal with wood in emergency.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis