BOOK NOTES.

Our Plundered Planet. Fairfield Osborn. London: Faber and Faber, 1948. Pp. 192. 10s. 6d. (sterling).

This is a book about man's destructive use of the natural resources of his environment. It is a plea for a world-wide adoption of scientific methods of resource conservation. Osborn develops the thesis that man must recognise that he is an intrinsic part of a biological pattern. The author contends that only by intelligent organization of his activities in such a manner as to preserve the equilibrium of this pattern will man adequately meet the challenge posed by the acute problems of resource depletion and population pressure.

As the title suggests, the book presents a discomforting picture of how mankind to the present time has followed an unwise and destructive exploitation of the world's natural resources. Osborn, apparently, is not particularly optimistic about the prospects of mankind's future success in this field.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I presents a brief outline of the world's resource pattern and the manner in which man fits into this pattern. It stresses that, despite his intellectual accomplishments, man has failed to recognise fully the significance of the fundamental ties between himself and the rest of living matter. Man must co-operate with nature. Part II describes how man, "the plunderer," by destructive use of natural resources has contributed since earliest times, in most areas of the world, towards the unnecessary depletion of natural resources.

Osborn presents concise world-wide coverage of the resources problem. He gives some attention to the problem in Australia and comments that "the outlook for the adoption of a really effective overall conservation programme in Australia is still not promising." He is of the opinion that a lack of co-ordination between Commonwealth and State instrumentalities is one of the factors standing in the way of an effective programme.

In writing the book, Osborn has stressed that his chief aim was to present a concept of the relationship between man and other forms of life that go to make up man's natural environment. As such, the book provides an interesting, if only a very summarised, statement of scientific knowledge on this matter. The book also provides a useful bibliography and reading list on topics relating to biology, land use and world-resource levels.

The scope of the book could, with advantage, have been extended to include a much-needed analysis of some of the institutional difficulties which must be faced by national and international agencies in solving the problems of population pressure and resource depletion.

The Economic Problems of Forestry in the Appalachian Region. William A. Duerr. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1949. Pp. xiv, 317. $5.00.

This monograph, which is published as Volume 84 of the Harvard Economic Studies, represents an outstanding contribution in the rather neglected field of forestry economics. The author is only too conscious of the lack of any clear definition of the scope and content of this field.

Partly no doubt to remedy this deficiency, and partly to put the specific regional problems with which he is to deal later in better perspective, he prefaces his study with a methodological introduction, in which he outlines his conception of forestry economics and the problems with which it should be concerned. This is quite valuable as far as it goes. For further development of this material, one must look to the work of the Society of American Foresters' Committee on Scope and Method of Research in the Economics of Forestry of which Dr. Duerr is chairman.

While claiming that the forestry problems with which he is concerned have more widespread application, Duerr in the main body of the book works them out against the background of a particular region of the United States, namely, the Southern Appalachians. The geographical attributes of the region, which is defined as including the states of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, are set out in the first chapter. The second deals with sociological characteristics of the people who inhabit the region. Particular emphasis is given to inter-industry maladjustments.

In the third chapter Duerr outlines the problems of forest land management met with in the area. Considerable attention is focussed on the interrelationships between forestry and agricultural land use which become important in a region like the Southern Appalachians where much of the woodland is in private ownership. In Chapter IV the more technical aspects of timber management are taken up.

The remainder of the book is essentially an economic study of the marketing of the forest products of the region. Chapter V is introductory and Chapter VI deals specifically with general marketing problems faced by small firms in the industry. The ensuing three chapters deal with marketing of specific products: pulpwood, sawmill products and miscellaneous forest products. The final chapter is devoted to a discussion of problems in the consumption of forest products. Here the author faces up to the difficult problem of defining an optimum rate of timber utilisation.

To Australian readers, the book's chief value will lie in the author's treatment of theoretical issues. The application of the general principles to the Southern Appalachian region will be examined more from the standpoint of methodology than because of any close comparability between this area and any major Australian forest region. Research workers in forest economics would do well to note the broad institutional framework against which the author discusses specific forestry problems.

The Grazing Animal. J. F. H. Thomas. London: Faber and Faber, 1949. Pp. 173. 15s. 0d. (sterling).

Though the author introduces the book as "opinionative and non-scientific," he nevertheless treats his subject with considerable technical detail. The result is a thorough, if lay, exposition of the characteristics and habits of grazing animals and their role in the farm economy, together with comprehensive descriptions of the various management practices which, in the author's opinion and experience, are conducive to the best results.

All the major livestock enterprises—cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry—are treated in detail and the description of management practices includes such diverse subjects as the selection of herbage plants for the sward and the most effective types of fences. The textual matter is liberally interspersed with photographs. However, many aspects of livestock management discussed are peculiar to the United Kingdom and therefore quite unsuitable to local conditions (in particular, the overriding influence of winter in the farmer's plans for the care of his stock). Hence the book, though of considerable interest, can have little practical significance for Australian farmers.

Der Weltgetreidemarkt nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg: Lage und Aussichten (The World Grain Market after World War II: Situation and Outlook). R. Plate. Hamburg: Paul Parey, 1950. (No. 4 of *Hefte für landwirtschaftliche Marktforschung,* issued by the Institut für landwirtschaftliche Marktforschung, Braunschweig-Völkerode, Germany). Pp. 234.

This survey was published in a period when the world grain market became more important to Germany than ever before. Having been cut off from her natural agricultural resources, situated in Eastern Germany and Poland, Western Germany imports yearly more than 6 million tons of grain, compared with an average of 2.8 million tons in the period 1934-38. This fact alone made a thorough analysis of the overseas market, from the West German standpoint, very pertinent.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I covers the world production and the data are based on F.A.O. publications. The second part, a detailed description of post-war trade in grains, offers an analysis especially worth reading. In the third part, the author enumerates the bearish and bullish factors affecting grain prices and concludes that a major economic depression is improbable within the next six to ten years.

The last fifty pages on national and international price regulations and price movements represent a balanced statement of gains the German importers might expect from stronger administrative controls in the producing countries.

A Short History of Agriculture in the British Colonies. G. B. Masefield. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1950. Pp. viii, 175.

This publication from the Oxford School of Agriculture provides an admirable condensed account of agricultural development in the British colonies from the seventeenth century to the present day, and follows a previous volume by the same author, *A Handbook of Tropical Agriculture,* also published by the Oxford University Press. Mr. Masefield is lecturer in Colonial Agriculture at the University of Oxford, an associate of the Imperial College of Agriculture, and was formerly Provincial Agricultural Officer, Uganda. This book's purpose is to draw attention to a "neglected aspect of colonial history" and to tell for the first time the story of agriculture in the British colonies as a whole. The emphasis is placed on technical issues and "only sufficient economics introduced to make the story intelligible." The result is a small volume in which a great deal of material of absorbing interest is compressed. Mr. Masefield writes lucidly and his book gives evidence throughout

of the sure touch of an author writing of problems of which he has had a lengthy personal experience. The convenience of readers is served by an index and a select bibliography at the end of each chapter. This "short history" should then appeal not only to students and technical personnel but equally to a wide reading public, interested in British colonial history and looking for an informed opinion regarding present-day problems.

Mr. Masefield divides his history into four parts which are again sub-divided into chapters. The first three parts, to which one-third of the book is devoted, trace out events to the opening of the twentieth century; Part IV deals with developments, 1900-1948. In his preface the author explains this arrangement, pointing out that "greater changes have been made in tropical agriculture and in the life of those who live by it in the past thirty years than in the preceding three hundred," due to the fact that it is only in recent years that "the full capacities of modern science have been turned to the mechanization of farm operations, the planned distribution of crops . . . the development of fertilisers, control of pests and disease, and the breeding of improved plants and animals."

Part I is entitled "The Amateurs, 1492-1660" and briefly covers the introductory phases of colonial development. The chapter headings sufficiently indicate the nature of the treatment: agriculture at the discovery of America; the beginnings of tropical agriculture; the post-Columbian dispersal of crops and livestock; and the first English tropical colonies. Part II refers to an expansionist and consolidating period of British overseas development and is headed "The Mercantile Empire, 1660-1838." It describes the dominant role occupied by the West Indies sugar industry in the eighteenth century and there are two chapters only: the sugar colonies; and Africa and the East. Part III takes the story from 1838, the year in which slavery was abolished, to 1900. It is headed "Private Enterprise, 1838-1900," and the chapter titles are: colonial sugar production; the origins of rubber planting; developments in Africa; the Ceylon planting industry in nineteenth century; and new trends in the West Indies. Part IV is naturally the most comprehensive and treats of developments in the modern period. It is entitled "Public Service, 1900-1948," and the subjects touched upon are given the following chapter headings: the new era; the colonial agricultural service; soil conservation; peasant production of cash crops; European settlement in tropical Africa; land questions; the dangers of monoculture; advances in insect control; problems of livestock improvement; rubber and the development of Malaya; the sugar industry in the twentieth century; commodity restriction schemes; and the financing of colonial agriculture.

There is also a short conclusion in which the author expresses his convictions that "if there is one lesson to be learned from the history of colonial agriculture, it is that generalizations are dangerous," and that "while short-term planning is essential, long-range plans cannot safely be made in a field where technical change is now becoming so rapid." The author does not presume to outline a blueprint for speedy African agricultural reforms nor to predict the probable success or otherwise of the British groundnuts scheme, to the early development of which he gives some space. His purpose is to describe the technical problems

which are involved in colonial agricultural development and to record how attempts have been made in recent years to grapple with them. Without explicitly saying so, he implies that progress will be necessarily slow.

In this book, as in a booklet *Wealth of Colonies,* by Professor W. K. Hancock, one may detect some elements of caution and scepticism concerning twentieth-century wishful thinking that "with a little free capital and a dash of education" under-developed countries can in a generation be turned into prosperous and stable communities. It highlights the peculiar political, social and economic problems that are currently being met with by F.A.O. and the member countries of U.N.O. in their concern with critical world food shortages, rising populations and the need to lift the living standard of "have not" countries in Asia and the East. Little is possible without research to define problems and to clarify aims. In any case, so huge are the problems that whilst all-out efforts must be made and there is not a moment to lose, results must be expected to be relatively slow. A history such as this volume of Mr. Masefield's provides a perspective and guide-post for measuring these problems by British colonial experience and is thus of particular interest to those unfamiliar with the details of tropical and pioneer agriculture.

The turning-point in British colonial development is to be traced to the novel problems with which British administrators were confronted when, in the early years of the twentieth century, the interior of Africa first began to be opened up on a serious scale, and, in proportion, as the African colonies gradually came to be the preponderant part of the colonial empire. Mr. Masefield points out that "hitherto, in the West Indies, in Ceylon, in Malaya, colonial administrators had been presented with territories in which Europeans were willing to live as planters in large numbers, where there was plenty of land for them to do so, and where the rainfall was sufficiently large and reliable for crops to be grown with every prospect of a reasonable return on capital invested." But in many parts of Africa, one or all of these factors were lacking. A native population of peasant farmers did, however, exist, and experience was to show that it was through them that most of the areas in these colonies would be best developed, this meaning the painstaking introduction of skills and techniques to improve a woefully low productivity. Capital was not tempted except in the establishment of trading installations to handle the export products of the peasant.

The characteristic of colonial development in the latter half of the nineteenth century had been the private planter, investing in perennial tree crops such as coffee, cacao, tea, cinchona, rubber, cloves and some others. This is the legendary European pioneer of a romantic literature carving out a career and fortune managing a lonely estate in a tropical outpost of settlement and "paying out the month's wages to his labourers in flowered silk dressing-gown and monocle, a glass of whisky at his hand, a tame monkey on his shoulder." Or it may refer to "young Kenya settlers, with their brightly-coloured shirts, wide-brimmed hats, and beaded belts [foregathering] in the local hotel with revolver on hip, for no better purpose than to shoot the lights out."

But in Africa the problems encountered were not of skilfully managing perennial crops usually grown almost continuously on the same land. Throughout the history of British colonial settlement, as clearly shown

by the author, one of the unwritten principles had been that "in no case was a previously existing population dispossessed of its cultivable land in order to make room for white farmers." When colonies had been first established in Bermuda, the Bahamas and Barbados, the islands had been found virtually uninhabited. At the conquest of Jamaica, no large Spanish population was dispossessed, whilst in the later centuries in the major developments that took place in Ceylon, Malaya, Southern Rhodesia and the Kenya highlands, the effect of British colonization was to carve out estates from virgin jungles or sparsely inhabited wastelands. The moral justification for this new settlement was that it introduced skill and capital and created wealth in areas where it would otherwise have been non-existent, most of the wealth reverting to the local native inhabitants in the form of wages paid for labour. In Africa, however, agriculture rested for the most part on annual food crops. With many of the most promising export crops, also, such as groundnuts, cotton, maize, and tobacco, problems had to be faced in rotations, manuring and disease control, which were new and for which detailed experimentation was necessary.

When in the twentieth century the major African development took place, the only related experience which could be drawn upon was Indian agriculture, again one of peasant farming with annual crops. Nevertheless, the comparative rarity of postings from India to the colonial service, comments the author, remained a lasting weakness of the latter, and it was not until the early 1920's that the serious study of indigenous agriculture in Africa was really tackled. The author concludes that it is the story of these troubles and their attempted solution —soil erosion and the problem of soil fertility—against a background of ignorance of the fundamental problems on the part of both the native farmer and his European adviser, which constitutes the most significant part of the history of colonial agriculture in the twentieth century.

Mr. Masefield's book carries many such illuminating interpretations of events and constructive criticisms besides a wealth of detail and facts skilfully woven into an easy narrative. A surprising amount of information has been compressed into a small compass, and the reviewer would say that the author is fully justified in hoping that this short history "may be found generally useful as a reference book of facts and figures" relating to a very important but little-known field of British overseas colonisation.

The Transformation of Manellae, (A history of Manilla). A. R. Macleod. Published privately by the author, Manilla, N.S.W., 1949. Pp. ix, 223.

In this volume published by the one-time editor "for a quarter of a century" of the *Manilla Express,* there is brought together almost everything that a lengthy research and a lifetime of experience has been able to gather concerning the township of Manilla and its people, from the earliest records of settlement to the present day. It is far more than a painstaking piece of historical research writing. It should rather be looked upon as the generous tribute of a pioneer journalist to a well-loved township and countryside in token of a lifetime of happy associations, rich experiences and innumerable endeavours. In a short foreword Mr. J. D. Kennedy points out that "the author, Mr. A. R. Macleod, came to Manilla as a young man nearly forty years ago keen for

business, but at the same time with an equal determination to serve the community. During that period he has occupied, with marked success, practically every available public office including secretarial as well as presidential, and he is at present Mayor of Manilla, filling his twelfth term, a record for this municipality . . . claimed to be one of the soundest and most modern country centres in the State of New South Wales." Mr. Macleod's purpose has not been to write a book of reminiscences, nor is it in any sense an autobiography. He deals with the facts of events and the careers of men as would a registrar looking to a time when memories have dimmed and, as it were, addressing himself to a future generation. There are chapters on sport, national service, district hospital, agricultural show, public affairs, local government and business, which necessarily have a parochial, neighbourly interest only. But what is surprising is to note that the name of the author is recorded in almost every field of township and district activities as having at one time or another occupied a major organising position. Though the author's name does not intrude, it becomes obvious as these chapters are read that here is a record of unpaid, voluntary public service, albeit in a comparatively small sphere, which is difficult to parallel.

The most interesting chapters of this "history" deal with the period of pioneering settlement of the rich Manilla district, in which two brothers held well over 200,000 acres as early as 1841, in addition to a similar area in the Bingara district. The first family to cross the Pandora Pass on to the Liverpool Plains was the Baldwins, about the year 1826, and well before the "squatting" period of the late 1830's. In 1831 Edwin Baldwin was found by Henry Dangar, of the Australian Agricultural Company, to be squatting on "Warrah." It was these lands which were later given by the Government to the company in exchange for the original grant in the Port Stephens area. As the company moved in, the Baldwins moved out. Meantime, the second brother, Otto, had travelled north and squatted on the Namoi, six miles below its junction with the Manellae River, as the Manilla River was then called. It was this area of occupation which later became "Dinnawarindi" station, when in 1848 it was converted from an annual leasehold basis into a "run."

It was not, however, until 1885 that a new settlement act resulted in an influx of free settlers to the Manilla district. Often men went to work on the big stations for the simple reason of spying out the land available for selection. Every man who took up land was watched by all-seeing eyes for some breach of conditions. If he gave the slightest opportunity, somebody was watching to "jump" his selection, for this was a period of virtual war between squatters and selectors. Chopping down of fences, shooting of stock and even acts of personal violence were common, as they were common in every part of the State undergoing rapid conversion from large "sheep runs" to "selections" and farms.

The author gives many examples of the tricks and subterfuges which were used to acquire land. In one such instance a man and his wife each selected a very valuable part of a district station. The selections adjoined. So they built a house on the boundary line, the bedroom being placed so that one half of it was on one selection and the other half on the other. There were two beds in the room, the wife occupying the one on her selection and the husband the bed on his holding. Again,

a favourite stunt on the part of station owners, whose area had been selected, was to run the selector's sheep into areas where there were no fences to hold them. Damages would then be claimed for trespass. For a time the courts awarded heavy penalties against the selectors who were forced to sell out to station owners at their own price. But gradually new legislation was introduced to provide some degree of protection to the selectors.

A chapter deals with the founding of the township of Manilla. This was by George Veness who was not only the first resident but also "had the privilege of giving the town its name." Veness was an English immigrant who arrived in Australia in 1849. He worked for a time in a store at Barraba where he was brought into close contact with teamsters travelling to the towns of the north-west. Encouraged by the prospects of an increasing trade, he finally selected a position for a new store at the "Junction" of the Namoi and Manilla rivers, which the teams crossed on their way north. Here he built a store, wine shop and residence, and established a garden a short distance up the Manilla River. Later a mail service, conducted on horseback, was instituted and Veness became the postmaster and his store, the local post office. It was necessary to give the new office a name and Veness did so, naming it Manilla, after the river that flowed from Barraba to the "Junction." By 1874 there was a wayside house every few miles on the road from the Hunter to the north. Three miles out of Manilla there was Granny Short's wineshop. Heare's Hotel was at "Dead Horse Gully," and was later succeeded by Norris's Hotel. There was also an hotel and stables at Attunga Springs. Just through Attunga there was an inn and blacksmith shop. Brown's Hotel was at Moorec Creek, "while a little up the creek was Charlie Ah Sue's vineyard." At "the eight-mile from Tamworth the Quirk family had a vineyard—further on a man named Gunnett had a vineyard and wineshop. Closer to Tamworth was Kearn's wineshop." The author gives descriptions of the positions of these inns and wineshops, pointing out the later developments. Veritably, the country was a thirsty place in the last century.

Further chapters deal with the flood of 1864, Thunderbolt the bushranger, the pioneers and their families, the "Baldwins of Durham Court," the "law," "parliamentary representatives," the development of railways, and there are other chapters dealing with the development of agriculture and the pastoral industry.

What is unique about this "history of Manilla" is not the intrinsic interest of its story nor the exceptional doings of its peoples—for which the author makes no special claims—but the plain fact that a small country town in New South Wales has produced and inspired its own local historian. That is indeed exceptional. Mr. Macleod's canvas is not broad, nor does he attempt to give us an intimate picture of the particular social community of which he writes. His job is to record facts, figures and significant happenings. He does this fully—the reviewer might even say exhaustively. His book should be of immediate interest for those acquainted with or living in the Manilla district, but it should have also a lasting historical value as a permanent record of the pioneer settlement and later development of a township and district situated in the heart of the New South Wales countryside.

Sydney: A. H. Pettifer, Government Printer.—1951.