

in local utilitarian print, and faintly redolent of the herbals and compendia of an older age. One learns for example, that an *Eleagnus* hedge attracts bluebottle flies; that *Tecoma capensis* makes an admirable pleached hedge in Taranaki; that rain does not drip through the full crown of well-grown Monterey Cypress.

There is, to the eclectic reader, a delightful whimsicality in the thought of the application of the old world hedger's craft of pleaching to an African shrub grown along the fences of a New Zealand dairy farm: and the idea is sound and useful, despite the whimsy: but one avoids facing the realism of calculating costs of pleaching hedges whilst paying current award rates of wages. Read thus eclectically, the book will give much pleasure to those who are already familiar with all the plants described in it. Read practically by a farmer, it is a useful compendium which will serve as an excellent guide of the plants to order from his nurseryman (especially if the reader is a North Island farmer), and will be found especially informative on the technique of constructing all-purpose hedges on the farm. A welcome feature, usually neglected in all books on shelter trees, is the reproduction of the statutes relevant to fencing and noxious weeds, and the warning to intending planters of the need to avoid interference with electric power and telephone lines, which may at the time of planting, appear quite immune from interference by the hedge plants.

C.M.S.

The Flora of New Zealand.

By W. Martin, B.Sc., F.R.G.S. Whitcombe & Tombs, Ltd. 6/6.

This is a good little book with a misleading title. It is not a "Flora" in the accepted sense, but a popular account of the plants of New Zealand. Successive chapters introduce the beginning field botanist to the seaweeds, fungi, mosses, liverworts and lichens, ferns and club-mosses, the grasses, sedges and rushes, climbing plants, perchers and parasites, the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. As a general introduction to the plants he is likely to meet with it may be recommended to the young forester. If it leads him to a more serious study of forest associations it will have served a useful purpose. The illustrations are for the most part good, and the text within its limits reasonably accurate.

H.H.A.

The Menace of Soil Erosion in New Zealand.

Bulletin No. 1, Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. pp. 16, illus. Wellington, 1944.

This is the first of a series of bulletins to be issued by the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. It is popular in nature,