

REVIEWS

EUCALYPTS FOR WOOD PRODUCTION, edited by W. E. Hillis and A. G. Brown, 434 pp. CSIRO, Australia, 1978. (A\$28.50.) Obtainable from CSIRO Division of Forest Research, P.O. Box 4008, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600, Australia.

This book is in 23 chapters with 33 individual contributors. It covers eucalypt ecology, choice of species, pests and diseases, silviculture, management, economics, and wood utilisation. Most chapters have the format of a technical review of the literature with plenty of references interwoven with the authors' own views on the subject. Clear writing, careful editing, and interesting material combine to make this a most worthwhile book.

While most attention is given to the Australian scene, gaps in local knowledge have frequently been filled by reference to overseas eucalypt experience, including that in New Zealand. A fair balance is struck in most chapters between the virtues and failings of the genus for forestry purposes. Eucalypt enthusiasts in New Zealand will be particularly disillusioned by some of the information presented on the problems of sawing and using timber from fast-grown logs, namely, growth stresses, kino veins and collapse.

The technical information in the book will be valuable to eucalypt growers and wood processors the world over. Forest planners, especially those in the various states of Australia, and in New Zealand, should find the book helpful in deciding what effort should be devoted to eucalypt growing.

M. D. WILCOX

THE OXFORD BOOK OF NEW ZEALAND PLANTS, by L. B. Moore and J. B. Irwin, xxii + 234 pp., including 32 colour and 79 black and white plates. Oxford University Press, Wellington, 1978. (\$40.)

This is a beautiful book which it is a pleasure to browse through. The artist and author combine to present superbly accurate drawings, many in true colour, and a clear and extremely informative text.

Something of the innate modesty of the author, Dr Lucy Moore, one of New Zealand's foremost botanists, comes out in the preface. Of the artist, Bruce Irwin, the book tells us little, but we are left in no doubt of his ability to depict plants in perfect detail.

The book is directed less at the professional botanist than at the interested amateur. The intent is to enable the keen