

successful under certain restricted conditions, without at the same time stressing their limitations for general application or even attempting to evaluate their relative merits.

The last chapter gives examples of the use of air photographs for land-use and vegetation surveys in a number of countries. Emphasis is largely on forest survey and descriptions are given of the methods used in Canada, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. In addition the general position with regard to aerial survey in the British Colonies is discussed and notes given of any type of aerial survey undertaken in these countries. Most of the surveys described are the large ones undertaken by Government agencies. There are many others, particularly in Canada and U.S.A., which have been made by private concerns. Thus in U.S.A. the highly successful volumetric survey of 44,000 acres of redwood made by Mason and Bruce in 1942, was not only the first forest survey undertaken by private enterprise in that country but it used an entirely new combination of techniques.

There is a comprehensive but well-selected reference list and a series of excellently reproduced photographs.

The bulletin deals with a complex and technical subject in a lucid manner and will be read with interest by all foresters. It will be of particular value to those who work with aerial photographs and who are still seeking new ideas for their uses.—A.P.T.

**The Commercial Timbers of Australia.**—By I. H. Boas. Published by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. pp. 344, 20 plates. Government Printer, Melbourne. Price 12/-.

This book fills a long-felt need for general reference to Australian woods as a whole. Individual timbers are described under standard headings and the data presented is sufficiently full for most practical purposes. The lists of timbers suitable for specific uses and the very full bibliography of Australian forest products are also of particular practical significance.

Part I of the book discusses trends in utilization, the more important aspects of timber technology, insofar as they affect the Australian timbers, and minor forest products. The expansion of the Division of Forest Products during the twenty years of its existence and its achievement under the guidance of Mr. Boas are too well known to require comment; this book, written when Mr. Boas was about to sever his connection with the Division is a fitting tribute to his work.—J.S.R.

**Unasylva.**—Vol. I, No. 1, July-August, 1947. Prepared by the Division of Forestry and Forest Products, and published bi-monthly by the Information Service of FAO, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Annual subscription 3.50 dollars; single copy 65 cents.

The establishment of a Division of Forestry and Forest Products in the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has

been noted editorially in this journal. *Unasylva*, a bi-monthly review of this field, is one of the means whereby the Division will function. In his introduction Sir John Boyd Orr states its purposes thus: "This new review will attempt to shed light on all manner of problems in the field of forestry and forest products, to compare methods that are being used in different countries, and to present the opinions and suggestions of experts in the various fields."

This first number has set an admirable standard in the analysis of forest problems of major international concern, and in presenting statements of the position of forestry and forest products in member nations. "The Disappearance of the Tropical Forests of Africa" by A. M. A. Aubreville, Conservator of Waters and Forests of France, is a penetrating ecological and sociological analysis of the problems of Equatorial Africa. The problems are capable of solution but only on an international scale embracing joint research and synchronized undertakings. The establishment of an advisory and co-ordinating body for the protection of Africa's soils and forests is recommended.

Under the title "Forest Utilization," J. A. Hall of the U.S. Forest Service discusses the varied use to which forests are put in the service of man and the present state of technological development. In spite of the striking developments in new wood products, the writer considers that sawn timber will remain the most important single product of the forest, bearing the major cost of forest management.

In "The Growth of the World's Forests," contributed by the Division's staff, growth and depletion statistics are considered, and their present shortcomings explained. The encouraging conclusion is reached that greatly increased yields have followed more intensive and skilful working of the forest, and many of the present low yields are capable of very great improvement.

"Timber Shortage or Timber Abundance in the U.S.A." and "Forest and Forest Products Research in Canada" are reviews of the subjects at the national level by the chiefs of the respective forest authorities.

A summary of the work of the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO is given. There is also a section "News of the World," which is a digest of information gleaned from official and other sources and classified by subjects.

*Unasylva*, is attractively printed with excellent illustrations; it is now published in English and French, but a Spanish edition is planned. Distributing agents are being selected for various countries and areas; meanwhile orders for subscriptions or individual copies are being taken by the Documents Office, FAO, 2,000 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A.

G.H.H.