

includes notes on range and importance, ecology, qualities and uses of timber, introduction and results obtained, scope for use and technique. In Part II Dr. Anderson indicates what groups of species are suited to the various sites, special attention being paid to their relative reaction to frost and exposure, and to economic considerations where alternatives exist. The whole book is the distilled essence of thirty years experience of species siting; it is clearly and simply written and will prove a valuable guide in afforestation in Britain.

It is the notes on individual species that will be of major interest to New Zealand foresters. Many of the species dealt with are of importance in our own exotic forestry; and we have long awaited authoritative and comprehensive information on exotic species of possible forest use, including those such as Sitka spruce, *Abies* spp. and Japanese larch which have not yet been sufficiently tried. Such a work would desirably go further than Dr. Anderson's and include remarks on spacing, thinning and regeneration technique and should of course be based on New Zealand experience. In the meantime, *The Selection of Tree Species* should go some way to fill this want. Some of the information, such as that on technique, is not applicable here, and it is strange to hear that radiata pine seed does not store well. But the notes on species and the results obtained will be of direct value in further assessment of some of the less familiar exotic species in this country. Perhaps of equal but more indirect importance is the emphasis on an ecological approach in classifying sites prior to afforestation.

H.V.H.

**THE FORESTER'S HANDBOOK**—By H. L. Edlin. Thames and Hudson, London, 1953. 395 pp., 35 photogravure plates, 12 line drawings. Price 35/- net.

So many changing facets of forestry and forest research are covered each year in leaflets, bulletins, professional journals, and the like that there is a real need to consider the whole, every so often, in terms of current forest practice. In the Forester's Handbook, the author, well known already for his works on British trees, woodland crafts, and wild life, has attempted this. The result is a handbook which the author may fairly claim will satisfy this need by its adequacy logical presentation, easy style, and obvious knowledge of the practice of forestry.

Chapters 1 and 2 describe in turn Britain's Woodland Estate, and Tree Growth and Structure. A chapter each on seed collection and storage, and Nursery Work follows. The author then passes on to discuss in four chapters the key to successful establishment and development of the forest crop (assessment of the site factors on the Planting Site, Preparation for Planting, Planning the New Crop, and Choice of Species). A minor error occurs on p. 114 where the author

in discussing "major species" obviously means "The three pines, the two species—". Three chapters deal in turn with Planting and Weeding, Natural Regeneration and Direct Sowing, and Coppice, Scrub, and Devastated Woods. New Zealanders will understand and sympathise with the author's comment on selective brashing (low pruning) :—

"But if labourers of the class usually employed on this class of work are told to select only the best trees for brashing, they will waste so much time looking around that they might just as well brash the lot."

Three chapters describe Tree Felling, Measurement and Valuation of Timber and Tree Crops, and Marketing Timber and Forest produce. Two chapters discuss protection of woodlands against Insects, Fungi, and Harmful Plants, and against Fire and Other Causes of Damage; followed by two chapters describing the use of trees as Shelterbelts and Screens and, for amenity, Trees in Hedgerows, Parks, and Gardens. The closing four chapters deal lucidly with Management and Plans of Operation, Financial Assistance and Taxation, Tools and Equipment, and Miscellaneous Information. A useful select bibliography is attached.

In his introductory paragraph Edlin writes :—

"In compiling this book I have in mind the needs of the man in the woods, whether he be landowner, land agent, or forester, who requires an outline of day-to-day outdoor work as now practised in Britain. Even the professional forest officer or consultant, who undergoes a course of university training lasting three or four years, often finds it hard to get to grips with the practical details of field forestry, and I hope that this account may help to bridge that gap." It is the opinion of the reviewer that Edlin has indeed helped to bridge the gap.

Although based on forest practice in Great Britain, and written primarily for foresters and woodland owners of that country, *The Forester's Handbook* will command a much wider field of interest and use. It will find a ready place in New Zealand bookshelves.

A.D. McK.

**PLANNED MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS**"—By N. B. Brasnett.  
George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1953. pp. 238

*Planned Management of Forests* is the first British text book on forest management to be published for 18 years. The author has had a long experience in both the practice and teaching of forest management; and he is gifted with a clear and lucid style. He is thus well qualified to fill what was an obvious gap in British forestry literature.

The book is divided into three parts. Part 1 is concerned with the growth and organisation of forest crops, and deals briefly with considerations of growing stock, increment and rotation, with the sustained yield and normal forest concepts, and with the subdivision of a forest into management units. In Part 2, entitled Planning Management, the author launches straight into a full exposition of planning in general, and working plans in particular. He concentrates on the practical aspects of planning rather than, as other authors have done, on theoretical considerations of yield regulation. Yield regulation is still dealt with, but in its proper place, i.e. as just one of the many essential steps in working plan preparation, and not as a separate and even a mystical subject. Except for a lengthy discussion on Brandis' methods for teak in Burma the treatment of these chapters is concise, though for the New Zealand forester at least it is sufficiently comprehensive.

The author defines a working plan as "essentially the simplest possible statement of what is known about a working plan area, its configuration soil and climate, what is growing on it, its possibilities, what has been done in the past, what should be done in the future, how it should be done and what records should be kept. Few people will disagree with this realistic concept. Here as elsewhere the author emphasizes the desirability of simplicity and conciseness; and he goes on to say "Part 2 should be kept as concise as possible" and "the prescription should be definite, concise, and clear, and should not include any reasons." At the same time he advocates the collection of all known facts and considerations in Part 1 and he devotes a considerable part of the book to explaining why this should be done and to describing the most appropriate ways and means. Like Jerram before him, he recommends the adoption of the late Ray Bourne's list of standardised headings. This arrangement is most logical and has other advantages, but New Zealand experience has been that it tends to lead to an over-elaborate and over-detailed document. It is somewhat difficult to reconcile these chapters on Part 1 of the working plan with the author's plea for simplicity and brevity. On the other hand he is at pains to point out that Part 1 need not be developed fully in all cases, and that working plan preparation should never be delayed just because all the detail necessary for a complete Part 1 is not available. It is far better for a working plan to prescribe that certain surveys should be carried out or certain facts should be ascertained, than to delay the commencement of planned management and of effective control because the facts are not at present known. In the extreme case, as the author says, "a plan to prepare a working plan is better than no plan at all."

Part 3 contains an historical account of the growth of forest management in Western Europe and discusses the latest developments. This is a most interesting review which shows clearly how long standing and how painstaking has been the search for perfection