

a stable community is the most resistant to any type of attack and therefore everything should be done to promote stability.

The book is very well produced and indexed, ensuring easy reference. Each article concludes with several pages of bibliography which should enable the investigator to proceed to further references if required.

It would appear that the authors of each article have relied heavily on their own experience and personal contacts. This is perhaps understandable when considering the magnitude of the task they undertook, but it detracts from the value of a review that professes to cover all the recent research work in a particular subject. It is also a pity that more closely related subjects were not dealt with in the one volume; the physiology of bark is a long way from forest growth in peat soils.

The remaining volumes, when published, will complete a very valuable reference. They should be included on the library shelves of every forest research centre and university forest school.

A. W. GRAYBURN

"FANTASTIC TREES" by Edwin A. Menninger. 304 pp., 238 plates. The Viking Press, New York, 1967. Price \$8.95.

Fantastic Trees is not a textbook in any sense of the word, but a book of miscellaneous information about biologically curious, exotic or interesting trees in fact and in legend.

For a forester, this book is essentially about "other trees".

Mr Menninger says in his Introduction: "Perhaps this volume should be considered a gawker's handbook, with several hundred trees vying for attention, many of them enmeshed in myths and mysteries that are hard to believe or to understand".

A vast amount of information has been culled, which, though not profound, is interesting, informative and particularly readable. The illustrations are first class and each chapter is enhanced with bibliographical notes indicating sources.

The anthropocentric approach may irritate some readers, but the classification does bring together trees with similar characteristics, although they often make strange bedfellows. By and large, the book is excellently done within the space available and is the first time the information has been collected into one volume.

Some minor errors are apparent in the text, but these will surely be corrected in a future edition. Some occur in comment on New Zealand trees which have "honourable mention".

Fantastic Trees is good light reading and a welcome change from a too heavy diet of technical works.

I. W. DAVEY