

judgments on many of the problems discussed. He will find in the present book, however, a great deal that will interest and inform him, and a great deal also that will suggest to him lines of fruitful research. Teachers will find in it the essentials of a subject the importance and fascination of which are not often realized outside the veterinary schools.

Mr. Richardson is to be congratulated; and his publishers have earned our gratitude for producing, at a moderate price, this attractive, easily handled and well-printed book. G. LAPAGE

## GARDEN, SMALLHOLDING AND FARM

### Smallholdings for Pleasure and Profit

Quarter-acre Part-time Holding to Smallholding and Farm. By W. V. Ball. Pp. 124. (Worcester: Littlebury and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 10s. 6d. net.

### Your Smallholding

Edited by Alan Thompson. (Penguin Handbook PH.13.) Pp. 192+8 plates. (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, Ltd., 1947.) 1s.

### Smallholder Broadcasts

Vol. 3. From the Series of Broadcast Talks "Backs to the Land". Pp. 95+8 plates. (Worcester: Littlebury and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 10s. 6d. net.

### Flowers, Shrubs and Fruit for the Small Garden

By G. A. Carter. Pp. 86+12 plates. (Worcester: Littlebury and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 9s. 6d. net.

IT may be claimed for the present post-war period that it has a substantial fund of good counsel available for newcomers to the land. Three of the books under review aim at providing trustworthy advice to smallholders, actual and potential, and in this they succeed.

The author of "Smallholdings for Pleasure and Profit" was an ex-Serviceman in 1921 who decided to obtain a living from the land. His experiences of small-scale farming, following a course of instruction at the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture, are set out clearly in his book, and he presents the reader with facts and figures of a highly enlightening character. Holdings ranging from a quarter of an acre to those of 50-acre size are discussed, and observations made on the capital required to run them. Advice is tendered on how to obtain a smallholding and on whether to purchase or to lease. The Land Settlement Association Schemes are described, as are land settlement schemes in several countries other than England. Illustrations, mostly of mechanical aids for the small farmer, add to the value of a publication certainly well worth perusal by the prospective smallholder.

"Your Smallholding" ably maintains the high standard established by Penguin Handbooks. In this volume emphasis is placed upon the part-time holding, the demand for which is likely to increase now that working hours are being shortened. Chapters dealing with the keeping of cows, pigs, goats and bees are included, and rabbit-keeping is not forgotten. Space allotted to food crops is very limited and is devoted mainly to fruit-growing. The unwarranted bias against the use of mineral fertilizers, encountered in the final chapter, is perhaps forgivable in view of the many words of wisdom to be found elsewhere. This handbook, enhanced as it is by several clear

photographs, is wonderful value for the small sum which it costs.

In *Smallholder Broadcasts*, Vol. 3, much material of enduring interest has been put on permanent record and in handy form. Eight chapters are given to various aspects of poultry-keeping; six to bee-keeping; three to glasshouse crops; and pigs and waterfowl have a chapter apiece. The contributions, by thoroughly competent men, together make a particularly useful book which should be in the possession of every smallholder interested chiefly in livestock management.

"Flowers, Shrubs and Fruit for the Small Garden" is concerned with the garden having an area of between 500 and 800 square yards, that is, one which can be looked after by its owner without outside assistance. The author has made and owned several such gardens and now offers plenty of excellent advice to others. A few of his statements, however, ought not to pass unchallenged. The cultural directions are somewhat sketchy, the pruning of gooseberries, for example, being dismissed in one sentence. It were well to attend to leaky washers before rather than after spraying as advised. The illustrations are not as clear as they might be.

None of these books is provided with an index.

## EPICURUS UP TO DATE

### Matérialisme progressiste

Par Dr. Charles Mayer. Pp. 177. (Paris: Société française de Presse, 1948.) 150 francs

THIS is a clear and straightforward exposition of a type of philosophy more usually called positivism; for matter is taken to be that which the physical sciences study. It is a relief to find that 'progress' in the title means more knowledge, not bigger and better gadgets, and that the author acknowledges his kinship with the ancient Epicureans. There are differences, however. Epicurus, as expounded by Lucretius, was not interested in science except as a dogmatic stick to beat traditional religion with, whereas Dr. Mayer is interested, and on the purely scientific side writes very well. On the other hand, Epicurus' ethical doctrine was well thought out and based on a real understanding of human nature and the human situation of his day.

Dr. Mayer is content to reproduce the teaching of nineteenth-century utilitarianism and liberalism, modifying its individualism by insisting that welfare is social welfare; but does not examine its foundations or its applicability to the present world situation. In general, he is singularly unaware of philosophical problems. In the preface he sets out his fundamental assumptions: (1) there is nothing supernatural; (2) there are no transcendental truths; (3) the universe is not the product of thought, and its evolution is not predestined; (4) there are no final causes; (5) no facts but material ones; (6) thought itself is a spark (*étincelle*) derived from matter; (7) the mind cannot conceive of itself without matter. Of these, (7) might pass as empirical or 'scientific'; all the rest are transcendental truths (or falsehoods). Thus (2), unless carefully hedged about, is self-contradictory, and even so, unpalatable in face of the others. The philosophy of Santayana could have shown Dr. Mayer where his assumptions lead if systematically worked out and how much room is then left for progress of any sort. A. D. RITCHIE