

which Britain has established a leading position. It is, in any event, difficult to reconcile the announcement with the need to consider long-term requirements as well as the present situation which the Plowden Committee rightly stresses. An early examination of the position by, and an authoritative statement from, the Minister for Science, who apart from this should be studying the Plowden Report with some care and urgency, seem imperative.

That is the more important if the informed public opinion on which the Plowden Committee rightly insists is to be built up, for full and accurate information is an essential basis for public confidence and sound judgment. The point is the more significant in that in what is probably the weakest passage of the report, the Plowden Committee swings right against its concluding emphasis on informed public opinion and appears to endorse a policy of withholding from publication the long-term surveys of expenditure, prospective development of income or economic resources. Unless the maximum information is supplied, informed discussion of the issues is impossible: neither the perspective nor the basis for sound judgment is available, and Lord Hailsham might well reflect as regards the recent announcement by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, that in the case of departures from accepted policy, frankness and full publicity are the more essential. Secrecy is no basis either for confidence or sound judgment.

## PARASITES OF MAN

Introduction to Parasitology, with special reference to the Parasites of Man.

By the late Prof. Asa C. Chandler and Prof. Clark P. Read. Tenth edition. Pp. xii+822. (New York and London: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1961.) 78s.

THE appearance of yet another edition of this well-known book will be welcomed by all parasitologists, but their welcome will be greatly saddened by the knowledge that Asa Chandler, whose long life was devoted to the study of parasites and to the alleviation of the suffering caused by them to man and other animals, died while he was in the act of preparing this new edition. His great achievements in research and the devoted service he gave to human and veterinary medicine, and also to biology in general, will always be remembered by workers in these fields all over the world, for Chandler laboured, and was well known, in many countries, and the long list of his publications proves not only the width of his biological interests but also the practical value of the detailed work he accomplished.

In 1918 he embodied his knowledge and experience in a book entitled *Animal Parasites and Human Disease*, the fourth edition of which was, in 1930, rewritten to provide a general introduction to parasitology; and the value of this second work was proved by the demand for further editions of it, its title being changed, in 1940, to its present form. Now, in this tenth edition, we are given the revision prepared by Prof. Clark Read, who has succeeded Prof. Chandler in the chair of biology at the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas. Prof. Clark has, he tells us in his preface, taken over full responsi-

bility for the chapters on the Protozoa and the helminths, that is to say, for 512 of the 796 pages of text, and he has rewritten the chapters on the arthropods with the aid of notes left by Prof. Chandler.

The result is a volume which fully maintains the high standard of the earlier editions. It deals primarily with the parasites of man, but references are also made to parasites of domesticated and other animals, especially to those which are important in one way or another to human life and affairs. A notable change, which some readers will perhaps regret, is the deletion of the chapter on spirochaetes, these organisms being now treated in a chapter on arthropod-borne organisms other than Protozoa, which also deals with the viruses, bacteria, *Rickettsiae* and the group of organisms of uncertain systematic position, such as *Anaplasma*, *Eperythrozoon*, *Grahamella*, *Bartonella* and *Haemobartonella*. Systematics have never been emphasized in this book, though necessary classifications, not always those favoured by English workers, are given, together with keys for the identification of species. The book has, in fact, always been remarkable for its exposition, in lively but not abstruse language, of the principles of parasitology, though it has always contained at the same time a great deal of detail cunningly woven into the text. Prof. Clark has maintained this combination of attractive style and detail and the text is now as up to date as any book, in these days of very rapid advances in knowledge, can hope to be. The references appended to each chapter and the list given of journals in which advances of knowledge are recorded, add, as the good index and the abundant illustrations also do, to the value of the book. Prof. Clark is to be congratulated on his careful and competent completion of what must have been a difficult job. G. LAPAGE

## TREES OF CONSEQUENCE

The Eucalypts

Botany, Cultivation, Chemistry, and Utilization. By A. R. Penfold and J. L. Willis. (World Crop Books.) Pp. xx+551+61 plates. (London: Leonard Hill (Books), Ltd.; New York: Interscience Publishers, Inc., 1961.) 80s. net.

SOMEONE reviewing a recent world conference in Brazil on eucalypt-growing made the rather sombre observation that the Earth is becoming covered with eucalyptus trees. The first specimen known to science was collected less than 200 years ago at Botany Bay on Captain Cook's first voyage, and now plantations throughout the world are estimated to cover 3½ million acres. The award of a volume in the series of World Crop Books is a mark of recognition of this success-story. The genus owes its progress equally to its versatility and its utility. One species or another can be provided to suit a wide range of habitats, often growing with remarkable vigour and sometimes in places which other trees find discouraging.

The genus *Eucalyptus* is reckoned as having more than 500 recognizable species, of which many are of economic value. In discussing eucalypt as a crop-plant, it is essential that we be clear what species we are concerned with, and inevitably much of this book is taken up with botanical descriptions and means of distinguishing one species from another. The first few chapters contain an account of the