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ments is disappointing. In only a very few cases are experimental plants compared with controls. It is almost impossible to extract significant data from the mass of equivocal detail. How much did the plants irrigated with sea water produce in comparison with those watered with fresh water? Figure 10 seems to indicate that at least *Juncus* did equally well under both treatments, but how much of this was new growth? Were the plants in Table 18 just a few selected ones? What was the average behavior?

The quality of the other articles in the book varies greatly. One by Heimann and Ratner on the growing of peanuts and cow peas in slightly brackish water gives good experimental data, whereas one by Lopez on irrigation with saline water presents no experimental results at all except for quotations from other authors. There are interesting review articles by Chapman, and one by Raleja gives very useful information on the history of arid lands and their utilization potentials. Out of context is a final article, interesting by itself, on the ecology of The Great Salt Lake region.

F. W. WENT

DIE WÄLDER SUDAMERIKAS. *Ökologie, Zusammensetzung und wirtschaftliche Bedeutung. Vegetationsmonographien der einzelnen Grossräume.*

By Kurt Hueck. *Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart.* DM 72,—. xix + 422 p.; ill.; subject index. 1966.

Biologists have long waited for an authoritative book on the vegetation of South America which is both comprehensive and thorough. Although this fascinating continent has drawn expedition after expedition and has attracted some of the greatest botanists for more than a century, an integration of the wealth of knowledge thus acquired has been conspicuously absent.

Here we have, at long last, such an integration. As a plant explorer of many years' experience in the Amazon and Andes, I am constrained to extend my heartiest congratulations to author and publisher for a scholarly work beautifully presented. It will certainly hold an unique place in botanical literature for many years and will help mold the future of exploration, research and exploitation of the flora of this most extraordinary continent that still preserves so much that is unspoiled in nature.

Kurt Hueck, who died in Buenos Aires in 1965, never saw his book in print, even though, through his illness, he did much of the work of correcting proof. Having spent more than 10 years continuously traveling in South America as a forest officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization, he wrote with an authority that few can possess.

He knew South America intimately. There are few types of vegetation on that continent that he had not seen and studied, yet with all of this basic field work he possessed a keen understanding of the literature, both classical and modern, as evidenced by his bibliography of more than 425 titles. The photographs, almost all taken by the author, are of superior quality and greatly enhance the value of the book. Maps and diagrams are likewise numerous and pertinent.

The work is divided into 40 chapters based upon the vegetational types. It thoroughly reviews all parts of South America most meticulously, starting with the northern forests of the Amazon ("neotropical forests") and subdivisions of this great phytogeographic area: the Amazon, for example, is treated as ten detailed regions, such as the Rio Negro (northwest hylaea), the Beni-Mamore-Guapore (the Acre region), and the Madeira-Purus region. Similar treatment is offered for the Orinoco and for the Guianas. The Andes, likewise, are considered in smaller, ecologically related regions. This same thoroughness characterizes the treatment of the remainder of the continent. Furthermore, in a rather extensive appendix, the author discusses the "unforested or poorly forested regions of South America," thus making the volume a continental treatment of the vegetation far more inclusive than its title would indicate.

In this scholarly book there is the underlying tone of the conservationist, for the author insisted that to exploit the natural resources of South American forests rationally it is important to plan ahead of time to regenerate the wood on the used areas right away, and that this is only possible on the basis of an exact knowledge of the ecological conditions of the different types of forests. Each chapter includes a consideration of the kind of exploitation that the forest has supported, often with suggestions for future improvement of the commercial utilization of the natural resources still available.

The specialist may sometimes be disturbed by antiquated botanical nomenclature or, as in the discussion of the phytogeographically and commercially critical genus *Hevea*, by failure to use the latest monographic or floristic works (Baldwin, Ducke, Schultes and Seibert, in the case of *Hevea*). The whole book, however, is so original, presenting so very much material so comprehensively and so masterfully that these truly minor shortcomings cannot detract materially from Hueck's outstanding contribution. I wish that, during my own period of most active field work in South America, I could have counted on such a useful and clarifying tool as *Die Wälder Südamerikas*.

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES