

La Lutte contre *Stephanoderes hampei* Ferr.

Par G. Schmitz et P. Crisinel. (Série Scientifique, No. 70.) Pp. 156. (Bruxelles: Institut National pour l'Étude Agronomique du Congo Belge, 1957.) 130 Belgian francs.

THE coffee berry borer beetle, *Stephanoderes hampei*, is one of the important pests of a tropical crop, and its control by insecticides has been reconsidered since the development of chlorinated hydrocarbons and organic phosphorus compounds. Primarily a pest of *robusta* coffee, this small Scolytid was introduced into South America and the East Indies in early consignments of seed from tropical Africa. It causes shedding of the developing coffee cherry and damage to the bean.

Schmitz and Crisinel give the results obtained between 1950 and 1955 in controlling *Stephanoderes* on a field scale in the north-east of the Belgian Congo. Trials were carried out with a number of chemicals, including DDT, BHC, dieldrin and parathion. These were applied in a wide variety of ways from hand dusting and spraying to power-operated machines. The best results under prevailing local conditions were obtained with an endrin emulsion and a power-operated atomizer, 'Swissatom 2000', for which operating costs are given in detail.

The fact that successful pest control depends on a thorough knowledge of the pest is recognized by the authors, who devote nearly half their paper to establishing the background against which they had to work. A historical survey of *Stephanoderes* as a pest of coffee, supported by a detailed bibliography, is followed by an account of its life-history, and by a statement of the problem from the point of view of coffee production. The whole problem of 'shedding' as found in plantations in Uele is discussed in relation to the proper diagnosis of the part played by *Stephanoderes vis-à-vis* fungus attack and physiological disturbance of the coffee bush.

The Institut National pour l'Étude Agronomique du Congo Belge and the Compagnie Cotonnière Congolaise are to be congratulated in collaborating in establishing this work on so wide a basis. Schmitz and Crisinel have, in consequence, produced a report which will be of great value to those interested in the wide field of crop protection in the tropics.

W. V. HARRIS

Chromatographic Techniques

Clinical and Biochemical Applications. By Dr. Ivor Smith. Pp. xiii+309. (London: William Heinemann Medical Books, Ltd., 1958.) 45s. net.

THIS is rather different from the general run of books on this subject. It is confined mainly to the application of paper chromatography to substances of clinical interest. No attempt is made to cover the innumerable methods; instead, one single apparatus for one- and two-dimensional separations is described and a minimal number of solvent systems and location reagents of proved usefulness have been selected. Opening chapters deal with apparatus and give a full account of the methods of desalting and preparing fluids for chromatography. Chapters then follow, each devoted to recommended procedures for preparing chromatograms of amino-acids, sugars, barbiturates, indoles, steroids, phenolic acids and so on, in human blood, urine and tissue fluids. Some of these chapters include very useful sections on clinical interpretations of chromatograms in disease. Final chapters give guidance for further investigations of unknown constituents observed on chromatograms

and describe model experiments for students. The uniform style of the chapters reflects careful editorship and close collaboration with the various authors. The result is an attractive book, which within its limits contains a tremendous amount of information most attractively presented; it should prove of the greatest value for research workers in clinical chemistry, and because it has sought to standardize methods it should stimulate the wider adoption of paper chromatography for routine clinical chemical purposes and even encourage the general practitioner to use the method.

R. CONSDEN

Stedman's Medical Dictionary

Edited by Norman Burke Taylor in collaboration with Lieut.-Col. Allen Ellsworth Taylor. Nineteenth revised edition. Pp. xlvii+1656. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Ltd., 1957.) 88s.

THIS weighty volume provides brief definitions of many thousands of medical, dental, veterinary, chemical and botanical terms, together with notes on their derivation and pronunciation. Short biographical sketches of outstanding figures in medical history are included. A separate, 36-page section on medical etymology precedes the main work, and this most informative contribution should be of the highest value to medical students unversed in Greek and Latin. An appendix contains, among other useful data, comparative tables of weights and measures, temperature and barometric scales, and anatomical nomenclatures.

The dictionary itself satisfies the essential requirement of any medical dictionary, that it be reasonably comprehensive, accurate and lucid. It is not free from mistakes and misleading statements; on p. 787 "splenomedullary" leukaemia is described as the commonest form of leukaemia, with marked leucocytosis, "large uninuclear eosinophile myelocytes predominating"; acute leukaemia is not listed as such; under "hemoglobin" only three abnormal forms are mentioned; and in many minor respects definitions are sometimes not in keeping with current beliefs. Blemishes of this sort are inevitable in so massive a work, and are, of course, confined chiefly to subjects in which medical advance has been rapid. A more serious drawback for the British reader is the American spelling, regrettably often different from that used in this country, which renders the dictionary unsuitable for use by medical secretaries and typists.

F. G. J. HAYHOE

Observations on Birds of Southeastern Brazil

By Margaret H. Mitchell. Pp. x+258+11 plates. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1957. Published for the Division of Zoology and Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum.) 45s. net.

THE birds of South America and their taxonomy are very well known; very little has been recorded on what the birds look like and how they behave in their natural surroundings, and what these surroundings are. This book is a valuable collection of field observations on 289 species occurring in southeastern Brazil. The author resided in Rio de Janeiro for four years and had opportunities of visiting the adjacent States. Field identifications were checked against specimens in the São Paulo State Museum and with the aid of Dr. Olivério Pinto. Although mainly concerned with field study, Mrs. Mitchell did not neglect to become conversant with relevant literature and the text is annotated with more than 100 references. The style is pleasantly informal and very easy to read.