

Rice

By D. H. Grist. Third edition. (Tropical Agriculture Series.) Pp. xxiii+466+72 photographs. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1959.) 48s. net.

D. H. GRIST'S valuable book "Rice" is now in its third edition. It has been strengthened by the inclusion of two authoritative chapters, one on the genetics of rice and the other on improvement by selection and breeding. These were contributed by D. Rhind, who has had the satisfaction of seeing in West Africa progeny of seed he bred in Burma. Grist also has spent much of his life in the study of this crop and is to be congratulated both on the original compilation and on the no less important revision. In Chapter 12, Grist quotes the work of Pearsall and Mortimer (*J. Ecol.*, 27, 483; 1939) and of Pearsall (*Emp. J. Exp. Agric.*, 18, 289; 1950) which, he points out, provided an entirely new approach to the chemistry of water-logged soils. The Japanese quickly followed up these ideas, leading to more efficient use of their hard-pressed paddy fields. It is hoped that it will be possible for Grist to enlarge this chapter in the next edition of this book so as to include an account of this recent work.

H. GREENE

1959 Supplement to British Veterinary Codex 1953

Pp. xviii+134. (London: Pharmaceutical Press, 1959.) 35s.

THE appearance of this Supplement to the British Veterinary Codex is an expression of the policy of the Codex Committee to provide an interim volume before proceeding to a full new edition. It is a sound policy, and a necessary one, if the Codex is to attempt to keep abreast of new developments in the field of pharmacology. The drugs and vaccines described in the Supplement are already familiar by their having been some time in veterinary use, and it becomes a welcome reference book on actions and dosage. The period since the first appearance of the British Veterinary Codex in 1953 has been one of intensive research in pharmacology, and it is, indeed, during this period that a specific discipline of veterinary pharmacology has emerged. Curiously enough, despite these exciting new developments, the teachers of veterinary pharmacology in Britain are only now beginning to turn to the problem of producing a text-book in their subject to which the student or practitioner can refer. In this situation the Codex is particularly valuable.

P. JEWELL

Brompton Hospital Reports

Vol. 27, 1958. (A collection of Papers by Members of the Staffs of the Hospitals for Diseases of the Chest (Brompton Hospital and London Chest Hospital); and of the Institute of Diseases of the Chest.) Pp. x+277. (London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), Ltd., 1959.) 15s. net.

FOR those who wish to follow the progress of knowledge of diseases of the chest this volume collects, in the handy and attractive form well known to readers of the earlier volumes in this series, twenty-one papers, all of which have been previously published in the journals named in the preface.

The volume opens with an appreciation of the fine work of Maurice Myers, who joined the staff of the Brompton Hospital Sanatorium in 1932 and spent

the rest of his professional life there, being deputy medical superintendent for the greater part of this time. For him, as this memoir of his life says, the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis was an art, and his death in December 1958 deprived us of the services of a man of long and wide experience.

It is impossible, in a brief notice, to discuss in detail the contents of the papers here reproduced. Three of them deal with the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by extraperiosteal plombage, thoracoplasty and streptomycin, isoniazid and sodium *p*-aminosalicylate. Two papers report respectively on the treatment of pleural effusions by antibacterial therapy and on the proteins in serum and the pleural fluid, while two discuss studies of tuberculin sensitivity in tissue cultures and in the middle-aged and the elderly. There are five papers on heart conditions, one on multiple brochostenoses due to sarcoidosis, one on pleural neoplasms and one on the surgery of oesophageal lesions. The volume concludes with four papers on bronchiectasis, bronchodilator drugs and bronchograms, and two on pulmonary mycoses in Britain and the occurrence of *Aspergillus fumigatus*. The list of papers published by the staff during August 1957–July 1958, and the author and subject indexes to volumes 1–27, summarize the great work that this hospital has been doing.

G. LAPAGE

Genetyka

By Edmund Malinowski. Pp. 582+14 plates. (Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1958.) Cena zł. 42.

THIS text-book on genetics by one of Poland's leading authorities on the subject follows the familiar lines of such books published in Western Europe in pre-war times. The reader is introduced to the principles of evolution through references to Darwin; the story of Mendel's discovery, and the rediscovery of Mendel, is retold and the now classical studies of the early Mendelians are described. The role of the chromosomes in heredity and in evolution is explained, and brief references are made to some of the more recent genetical studies such as those on biochemical mutants in micro-organisms and the Watson-Crick views on the structure of deoxyribonucleic acid.

The chapter on evolution contains a brief section on Lamarck and the inheritance of acquired characters; experiments of MacDougall, Harrison and others are shown to be susceptible of explanation as selection effects and the cautious conclusion is reached that there is no evidence so far that can be accepted as definite proof of the inheritance of acquired characters. There is no mention of the work of T. D. Lysenko and his school.

In the final chapter on the application of genetics in agriculture we are told that the main achievements in breeding improved wheat varieties for Polish conditions have been based on some original crosses between the English wheat Squarehead and the Polish Puławka. Mention is made of the production of hybrid maize and hybrid onions in the United States and of the artificial production of polyploid races of various crop plants in Sweden and elsewhere. In this connexion we are told of some tetraploids of serradella (*Ornithopus sativus*), produced by Polish workers, which exceed the original diploid strains in fodder yield by as much as 100 per cent.

P. S. HUDSON