

## *Book Reviews*

*Adjustments in Agriculture—A National Basebook.* Edited by Mervin G. Smith and Carlton F. Christian, 1961. Available from the Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. 367 pp. \$3.95.

According to the introduction, this book was developed “to fill the need for a unified source book that assembles, coordinates, and interprets data on U. S. Agriculture. Its objective is to collect the factual background, trends, and problems of our agricultural economy, and present them in a useable manner. . . .”

While no single volume could cover in detail all the trends and problems in agriculture, this book fills a need and presents facts in a useable manner. The contributions of 18 outstanding students of agriculture are incorporated into 13 chapters that show trends, explain problems of growth, supply, demand, and adjustment, and consider human resources, community facilities, and educational changes.

Any viewer would recognize that these areas are handled rather briefly and that any chapter could easily be the subject for an entire book—in fact, many volumes are written on each topic. However, pertinent facts and observations from years of professional thought and study are condensed into this one volume. The material is not presented in the usual economists’ lingo but in easy-to-read, easy-to-understand language. The picture should be grasped by any professional agricultural worker, regardless of formal education.

No attempt is made to lay out a single program to meet adjustment needs and solve all problems—such an attempt would not be proper for such a book. However, the several authors very clearly identify limitations to certain proposals and types of adjustments needed if we are to adapt to change. A brief, concise treatment is given of the physical resources in agriculture. However, the real tone of the book may be suggested by Smith’s statement that “rapid progress or adoption of new technology must be accompanied by rapid economic and social adjustment. Man has made great progress in scientific and technological discoveries. He has not done nearly so well in solving the economic and social adjustment. The most challenging problems today are how to facilitate economic and social change in a democracy.”

The busy Extension worker (or any other agricultural worker) should invest some time with this book for a better understanding of the trends, problems, and adjustments in agriculture. Its contents can stimulate ideas

for adjustments and serve as resource material for programs, talks, news stories, and meetings.

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*American Women: The Changing Image.* Edited by Beverly Benner Cassara, 1962. Available from Beacon Press, Boston, Massachusetts. 141 pp. \$3.95.

The changing role of women, as explored in this book, has far-reaching implications for all informal educators. Eleven distinguished contributors, including Margaret Mead, Pearl S. Buck, Agnes E. Meyer, Dorothy Hopper, Edith F. Hunter, Chase Going Woodhouse, Ethel J. Alpenfels, Lillian M. Gilbreth, Bessie Hillman, Vivian C. Mason, and Agnes De Mille, ask questions, express opinions, and challenge readers to consider social changes and their effects on women's status.

Though each contributor's chapter is complete in itself, the book is divided into three major areas: (1) the challenge to modern women, (2) women at home and in the community, and (3) women at work. Such matters as the feminine stereotype, areas of opportunity and responsibility, and reasons why women's rights are losing ground are explored.

Questions concerning women's special capabilities and possibilities and the teenage hustle toward early marriage introduce the book. Part I concerns the changing relationships between men and women, the need for more efficient housekeeping, and the paradox of American women's educational and work opportunities as compared with that of women in other countries. One author deplores the excessive emphasis on physical aspects of sex and early marriage, the anti-intellectualism among young women, and the number of restless middle-aged women.

Freedom is characterized as "a deliberate exercise of choice" rather than freedom from pressure. It is suggested that, while teaching children values, women need to develop special skills and grow in awareness and sensitivity. One author recommends that we examine values that are consciously and vicariously taught to see if prejudices and ambiguities in social, political, and economic problems are being reinforced.

If workers are to continue to advance professionally, they need "the challenge of a new job, more prestige, less familiar and consequently more demanding tasks." Obstacles are identified that hinder women's opportunities, include mores, the notion that women cannot make use of their training because they must look forward in large measure to motherhood, and women's apologetic opinion of themselves.

The principal idea of the book seems to be the urgent need for women to assume leadership roles for which they are qualified and to work with men in "every phase and level of national and international life." Unfortunately, the book touches too lightly on strides made in the advancement of women's opportunities through legislation.

A challenge to Extension workers is that "mastery in any field is attained by producing what is valued at times of recognized importance. No genius, no matter what the field, is an unprecedented accident. There must be a need, an expectation and trust."

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JEAN A. SHIPMAN

*A 4-H Handbook and Lesson Guide.* By H. A. Willman, 1963. Available from Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, N.Y. 314 pp. \$5.95.

This second edition of the 4-H handbook is extensively revised and expanded to cover nearly all aspects of the program. The author says this handbook has been prepared "as an aid in reducing the time that most leaders would need to spend in figuring out what to teach and how to get it done."

The text is divided into three sections. Section One outlines the purposes of 4-H Club work and the procedures used in organizing and conducting clubs and in planning programs. Included are suggestions for demonstrations, community projects, and activities. The major portion of the text (Section Two) is devoted to subject-matter lessons covering such general topics as the food cycle on the land, the soil and its management, and balancing rations and diets, as well as specific project areas. Chapters on improving plants and animals through breeding and selection, choosing breeds and varieties, and judging livestock, dairy cattle, and horses give an excellent over-view of agricultural production.

The importance of such things as high yields, good quality, use of mechanization, prevention of losses from disease, insects, and accidents, management, record keeping, and accounting is stressed. This section also includes specific project lessons under the general heading of farm resources and the home food supply. Except for the home economics areas, the author covers quite adequately all major projects and activities involved in the 4-H Club program.

The final section includes suggestions for a well rounded program of business, individual project work, and recreation. The necessary materials to help local leaders carry out such a balanced program are included. Appendices are replete with useful information such as weights and measures, feed values, ration tables, score cards, and lists of breed

associations. A complete index is an invaluable aid in locating material.

The style of the book is interesting. All sections include information, suggested discussion questions and topics, practical exercises, and review questions. The subject matter is up-to-date and applicable under a wide range of conditions. 4-H leaders will find this book an excellent source of teaching material and a ready reference.

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*Cooperative Extension Work.* By L. D. Kelsey and C. C. Hearne, 1963 (third edition). Available from Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, N.Y. 490 pp. \$6.75.

This book is a "must" for beginners in Extension although it was prepared as a textbook for upperclassmen and graduate students in Cooperative Extension education. For those already in Extension, it would be desired reading to give a comprehensive review of the whole program.

Part I deals with the basis on which Extension started and progressed and with the various legislative programs that have evolved since its inception. Part II explains how Extension is organized, financed, and how it functions. The duties and qualifications of workers themselves and the relationships of workers within Extension, with other organizations, and with government are explained.

In Part III the authors have spelled out the objectives and philosophy of Extension and covered the building of Extension programs. Particularly helpful is the treatment of the "scope of programs and public affairs" and "leadership development." This part of the book should be extremely valuable to a new worker.

Part IV concerns the methods and processes of communication: photography, radio, television, letters, the press, audio-visual aids, demonstrations, personal contacts, and meetings. The chapter on county office management is interesting and enlightening. Part V explains the worldwide nature of Extension work and the extent to which Extension work in the United States has influenced other countries.

The authors have added content from many authoritative sources to their own background of years of experience in this panoramic view of Extension.

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