

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

Tropical Plants: Practical Botany for the Tropics

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Philippine Studies vol. 9, no. 1 (1961): 187—188

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Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

Since the present book accepts the existence of an unconscious element in man which strongly influences his daily life, the type of counselling it teaches places emphasis upon the need of each "client" to clarify to himself the forces that push him one way or the other. It is part of the priest-counsellor's duty to provide those conditions where such self-explorations can take place. These conditions outside the confessional are a respectful, accepting atmosphere where the "client" does not feel that he is being judged. The priest is slow to presume that most human problems are solved by purely logical and "common sense" solutions. He listens intelligently and communicates to the person the feeling that he is being understood. Through such listening it often happens that the general lines of the solution to a problem become clear.

The book thus serves as an excellent introduction for seminarians and priests into the exciting field of dynamic counselling, counselling which takes into account the devious, often self-frustrating, ways of the human unconscious. It is merely an introduction, and one can only reecho the warning repeated time and again in the book that a mere reading of the book does not equip a priest to do psychotherapy. On the other hand an awareness of the workings of the unconscious cannot but benefit the priest in the task of counselling, which is his unavoidable job.

JAIME BULATAO

TROPICAL PLANTS

PRACTICAL BOTANY FOR THE TROPICS. By W. O. Howarth and L. G. G. Warne. London: University of London Press, 1959. 238p.

This book is a laboratory manual for botany prepared for use, as the title suggests, in tropical countries. Many teachers and students in the tropics labor under the handicap of using laboratory manuals primarily written for the temperate regions. This manual was prepared to suit their needs and to make laboratory work more practical and more convenient for them.

Wherever possible the authors have selected and recommended the commonest tropical plants as specimens for laboratory work. Since many of these plants have different names in different places, only the scientific names of such plants are used, except when the plants cited are commercial plants and are known throughout the world by their popular English names, such as rice, mango, onion and pineapple.

As with all laboratory manuals, this book does not give an exhaustive treatment of the many subjects it covers, so it has to be used in conjunction with a standard textbook of botany and notes from lectures.

The book has been divided into chapter headings. This is a departure from the prevailing custom in ordinary laboratory manuals of dividing the subject matter into a long series of consecutively numbered exercises or experiments. This new arrangement may have been used so as to help the students acquire a more unified and more logical organization of knowledge about the subject. The effectiveness of this system can only be determined by putting it into effect.

There are twenty-eight chapter headings. The first few chapters are primarily devoted to the study of the macroscopic or gross anatomical features of the flowers, seeds and the main vegetative organs of seed-plants. Most of the succeeding chapters deal in general with the microscopic structures of such organs and with important plant functions or processes, e.g., water absorption, conduction, carbohydrate synthesis, cell metabolism, osmosis, etc. The latter chapters have to do with the study of the lower forms of plants, ranging from the simpler thallophytes to the more complex pteridophytes.

The general directions are clear and easy to follow. Furthermore, guide questions are frequently asked to stimulate students to undertake a thorough and systematic study of the matter under consideration.

The book is also illustrated with drawings and photographs as teaching aids. Photographs have been used instead of drawings in cases where it becomes necessary to give a more accurate representation of the subject studied.

The authors have produced a worthwhile book, and teachers and students of botany in the tropics are indebted to them for trying to fill their needs.

JAIME C. JOAQUIN

AN EXISTENTIALIST ON SCHOLARSHIP

THE IDEA OF THE UNIVERSITY. By Karl Jaspers. Edited by Karl W. Deutsch; preface by Robert Ulich; translated by H. A. T. Reiche and H. F. Vanderschmidt. Boston: Beacon Press, 1959.

Good psychologist that he is, Karl Jaspers is familiar with the transformation that occurs in the attitude of the typical university student. The latter comes to the university full of enthusiasm, aware