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Book reviews

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A BOOK ON STOCK DISEASES

Farmers frequently write to the Department of Agriculture requesting advice on the choice of a book dealing with stock diseases. In the past, such requests have not been easy to deal with as—except in the case of sheep diseases—most of the books available were too technical or consisted of overseas publications which were not always suitable for local conditions.

However, the latest (Fourth) edition of "Diseases of Livestock" by T. G. Hungerford, B.V.Sc., H.D.A., is likely to overcome the problem as it is an up-to-date comprehensive book which deals with the diseases of sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, horses, dogs and cats under Australian conditions.

The book contains much general information on animal diseases, including methods of administration of medicines, various aspects of hygiene and disinfection as well as methods of disposing of carcasses.

The sections dealing with diseases of the various animals are preceded by keys to the differential diagnosis of the relevant diseases which will undoubtedly be useful

in aiding a stockowner to sort out the possibilities where trouble is encountered.

All sections are very comprehensive and there is a chapter devoted to vitamin requirements which should prove useful to farmers and veterinarians alike.

While the book is written in non-technical language for the benefit of farmers and students it has proved a useful reference book for veterinarians in the past and in this latest edition they have been catered for by the addition of technical references in many cases and by the inclusion of a Veterinary Physicians' Index which should prove valuable.

The quality of the paper and binding of this edition are a considerable improvement on that of the earlier issues, and for all those interested in the ailments of domestic livestock this volume will prove a most welcome addition to the bookshelf. —J.S.

("Diseases of Livestock" by T. G. Hungerford. Published by Angus & Robertson, Sydney. Price 80s.)

"PIG RAISING" by L. A. DOWNEY

The latest edition of L. A. Downey's "Pig Raising" which has been revised following the publication of the original in 1951 can be recommended to both students and practical pig raisers alike as a worthwhile volume for the library. It contains the broad aspects of husbandry and many valuable hints for more effective and profitable pig raising.

It appears a little unbalanced in relation to the pages devoted to a discussion of breed characteristics. These are explained at some length and are largely a statement of show ring points.

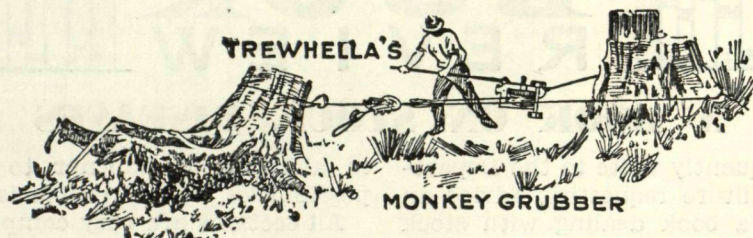
It may be as well to remember that from the point of view of practical pork and bacon production it would be as well for the West Australian reader at least to confine his attention to the most suitable of the two, or possibly three, breeds which

have proved most satisfactory. It is disappointing to see that in the chapter on feeding little attention has been given to the very important aspect of the utilisation of skim milk.

It would also be helpful if the subject of diseases in pigs was discussed more fully. While this type of work cannot be considered a veterinary textbook a description of the more common diseases must prove more helpful to pig raisers.

A chapter on deep litter is useful in dispelling some of the existing fallacies which are held by pig raisers concerning the usefulness of this type of management.—K.N.

("Pig Raising" by L. A. Downey, Published by Angus & Robertson, Sydney, in the Australian Agricultural and Livestock Series. Price 45s.)



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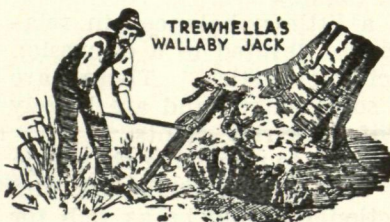
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