

THOMAS H. EVERETT, *Living Trees of the World*. Published by Thames and Hudson, London. 1969. Pp. 315, 22 × 28 cm. Price £5. 5s. od.

Review by B. T. STYLES

THIS book which forms one of a series that the publishers are producing on Natural History and related subjects, makes a particularly good companion volume to their *Plants of the World* (1966). The author of *Living Trees*, who is a horticulturist of considerable reputation, has set himself an immense task in choosing so broad a title but has, on the whole, succeeded in writing a very elegant introduction to the world's trees.

The text is based on Engler's systematic arrangement and selects woody plants attaining about 20 ft. or more, illustrating the major Higher Plant groups, including besides Angiosperms (Mono- and Dicotyledons), representatives from among the Tree Ferns, Cycads and Conifers. The last, a very well-defined group, is given an especially detailed treatment and almost every genus is mentioned, each with its more important and interesting species. The treatment of the woody Dicotyledons is, however, rather uneven, although I fully appreciate the author's difficult task of deciding what or what not to include by way of examples from the numerous woody groups. But do we perhaps detect (understandably) some bias towards the American representatives? The title *Living Trees of the World* is to some degree misleading, as some well-known and widespread tree families have been completely omitted and no reasons given. One such striking omission is the *Dipterocarpaceae* whose species are among the largest and most frequent dominant trees of forests in the East. Their sheer size and importance from the timber point of view should surely warrant their mention and their intriguing fruit-shapes would test the ability of any photographer or artist.

The outstanding feature of this book, like the others in the series, is the beauty and magnificence of its coloured illustrations, all of which are of an extremely high quality and standard of reproduction. In this volume we have 65, showing trees *in situ* or close-ups of their bark, leaves, flowers, or fruits. There are besides these nearly 300 other photographs and drawings in black and white, mostly of the same high standard. Yet I am personally rather disappointed that the author does not bother to localize the specimens shown in the photographs since these form such an important part of the work and would have made it very much more informative. As it is, one can often only guess whether a particular tree is growing in its natural habitat or in the artificial environment of an arboretum or Botanic garden. Geographic precision would have been all the more useful since the text deals mainly with the uses and folk-lore of trees rather than their botanical features and ecology.

This is most certainly a 'popular' book useful to the nature-lover and interested amateur. Although the text is written in pleasing, mainly non-technical language it has a fairly thick sprinkling of mis-spellings, particularly (and more seriously) of scientific names. These errors may unfortunately be perpetuated if the work is used as a source of reference.

L. T. CARRON. *An Outline of Forest Mensuration*. Aust. Nat. Univ. Press, Canberra. 1968. Pp. 224, graphs, tables. Price \$A6.00.

T. EUGENE AVERY. *Forest Measurements*. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 1967. Pp. 290, illustrated. Price \$9.95.

T. D. KEISTER (Ed.). *Measuring the Southern Forest*. Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge. 1966. Pp. 184, graphs, tables. Price 47s. 6d.

Review by T. E. EDWARDSON

THESE three contributions to forest measurement represent, in different ways, a third generation of mensuration textbooks. The original concern was with the volume and