

## TREES, WOODS & MAN

By H. L. EDLIN, B.SC., DIP. FOR.

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AN attempt has been made in this book to explain why Britain, a land of tree-lovers and timber users, is so poor in forests. In doing this the author ranges over the period from the close of the Ice Age to the present day.

In describing the processes that led to the disappearance of so much of the natural woodland he draws sharp pictures of the shifting cultivation and other deforesting activities of the men of the Neolithic Age, those of the Bronze Age, the tribesmen of the Iron Age, the Romans, the Anglo Saxons, the Danes and the Normans.

Mr. Edlin does not, however, confine himself to the story of man's destruction of the forest: a section is concerned with the biology of trees considered as though growing in an environment uninfluenced by man's work. There are chapters devoted to efforts made and being made to protect and restore the woods with emphasis on aspects scientific, economic and aesthetic. Finally there is a discussion on the major species of trees of Great Britain both native and introduced. Each species is dealt with separately in regard to its individual characters, distribution, requirements in respect of soil and climate and value for commercial and amenity purposes.

Among some references to Ireland can be found mention of the fact that this country can claim only one native tree that is missing from the natural flora of Britain. That is, of course, the strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) which is also native to Portugal and whose survival so far north is one of the fascinating mysteries of botanical pre-history.

Although the book was written for the enquiring layman rather than the professional forester and deals almost entirely with conditions in Great Britain it would, nevertheless, be of great value to an Irish forester.

It is illustrated with 27 colour photographs, 30 photographs in black and white and 2 line drawings.

J.J.D.