

REVIEWS

Northern Coniferous Forest Soils.

By Olof Tamm. Translated from the Swedish by Mark L. Anderson.

Published by The Scrivener Press, Oxford. 17/6.

In his preface to this English translation of his treatise on the Forest Soils of north Sweden, the author claims that the work has not been planned as a comprehensive scientific text-book. Be that as it may, the forester who is concerned with coniferous plantation will find that virtually all the essential general aspects of his soil problems are here dealt with in an eminently readable and authoritative way. Although primarily concerned with north Swedish conditions, the book is sufficiently broad in its scope to be of immediate interest to workers in other areas.

In soil science text-books, many features of soils which are of fundamental interest in forestry are apt to be treated somewhat casually, as being but incidental to soils in general. In Professor Tamm's book the forestry interest is at all times predominant. I would cite his chapter on the mull and mor forms of humus as illustrative of the particular value to the forester of his specialised approach. In this he gives an insight to the influence of decomposition processes in the humus of the forest litter on the success or failure of natural regeneration.

There is sufficient general scientific treatment of north European soils in this book to serve the practical forester in northern latitudes as a text. Those who work in a climate which does not possess the severity of the north Swedish winter can reasonably make allowances in interpreting some of its conclusions in the light of their own working conditions.

I would mention in conclusion that Professor Tamm's reputation as a soil scientist extends considerably beyond the shores of Sweden. One need have no hesitation in accepting his views on Swedish forest soils as being based on long experience and sound judgment. The translator has produced a text which reads as fluently as an original composition.

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