

Trees for Town and Country

Compiled by B. Colvin and S. R. Badmin for The Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction.

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THIS book is, as the title suggests, essentially for the landscape artist and town planner. Nevertheless it immediately commends itself to all tree-lovers as opposed to silviculturalists, though the latter could learn, through this book, that there is a lot more to trees than mere cubic feet and £ s. d.

The five-page introduction speaks in glowing terms of the past traditions of landscape planting in Britain and the effects of the Forestry Commission's encouragement to small woodland owners, in producing the well-timbered character of the English countryside which depends on scattered spinneys, groves and hedgerows, alternating with open spaces and farm-land.

We foresters, and indeed, all those connected with urban and rural planning would do well to study a work such as this before embarking on indiscriminate "road-side planting" and "landscaping". The practical and psychological effects of well-selected and well-sited trees on factory and office workers is brought to our notice, as is the lack of visual appreciation shown by those who lay out housing estates (which so often degenerate into ribbon development) and hope to cover their shortcomings by planting a few pink cherries and crab-apples.

There follows a detailed description of 60 of the better known and decorative trees. For each of these there is a full page photograph which together make up what must, undoubtedly, be one of the best collections of tree-photographs brought together in one book. The photographs show the trees in their full summer foliage, while on the opposite pages are skilful drawings depicting the appearance of the same tree in the winter, as well as scale drawings showing its likely height and spread at various ages. Sketches of the twigs, leaves, flowers and fruit are supplied also, along with details of the likes and dislikes of the particular species as to soil, climate, atmosphere and shade.

Sixteen lists are provided at the end of the book dividing the species into a variety of classifications such as rapidity of growth, hardiness and suitability for various sites and purposes.

In conclusion the A.P.R.R. are to be complimented on the excellence of the production and layout of this book which makes it almost a collector's piece while at the same time being good value, for the planning specialist.

A.M.S.H.
