

FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

An International Journal. Vol. 1, No. 1. December 1976. Editor-in-Chief: L. Roche. Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam. Price £27 approximately. (4 issues).

It has become fashionable, and in certain circumstances may be profitable, to decry the arrival of new technical journals. World forestry in the broad sense, however, is not a subject which can be said to be overloaded with journals, at least in the English language, and this new journal is to be welcomed.

The editor gives a number of reasons why such a journal is needed: first, to synthesise fragmented and scattered information; secondly, to promote a better understanding of the world's renewable resources in order to conserve them for man's benefit; thirdly, to bridge the gap between resource managers and scientists; and finally to review publications of international importance. The editorial policy will take cognizance of the fact that aesthetic and utilitarian values other than the production of wood, are now considered in formulating the objectives of forest management.

Another consideration is the possibility of an increase in the dependence on forests for energy. It is pointed out that the world consumption of energy from fuelwood is greater than that from combined hydro-electric schemes, nuclear power, and geothermal sources. The dependence on forests for energy is at present a mainly tropical phenomenon, but the increasing scarcity and cost of fossil fuels, and the unsolved environmental problems associated with the production of atomic energy are causing an increased interest in the use of forests as a source of energy in many parts of the world. A book review in this issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*

indicates that the *unused* portion of the current annual increment of the world's forests is roughly equivalent to the world's total energy consumption in the year 1970.

The scope of the journal, as summarised by the editor, runs to nearly a page of text, and it is difficult to think of anything which has been left out. It is concerned in particular with the application of ecological knowledge to the management of man-made and natural forests, and covers all forest eco-systems of the world.

There are four main articles in this issue. The first deals with the problem of deciding whether or not to spray Monterey pine plantations in New Zealand infected with *Dothistroma* needle cast with a copper based fungicide. (It is interesting in passing to note that the plantations in question were 5 years old and "grown on a fertile site that had been recently converted from pasture"). The case is interesting in itself, but is treated as an example of the more general situation where it is accepted that resource managers "should look much more critically into the possible ramifications of the management practices they prescribe, and not just at the short-term gains that are likely to accrue from exploiting their resources."

Another article deals with the effects of phosphate, potash and lime applications to control-pollinated progeny of loblolly pine in North Carolina, U.S.A. The fertilisers increased growth, and the lack of any significant interaction with genotype is interpreted as simplifying breeding programmes, and indicating the possibility to "breed broadly adapted, general utility strains for diverse sites."

There are also, a short paper on pollen transport in a seed orchard, a long comprehensive one on natural regeneration of tropical forest, five book reviews and a news item on extended use of timber residues which at present go to waste.

This is a useful and interesting journal, and important in that it adopts a positive attitude towards the social responsibilities of foresters. It should be in every library having any connection with forestry, and any affluent forest manager might do worse with his spare financial capacity than take out an individual subscription. Free sample copies are available from the publisher.¹

The editor-in-chief is an Irishman who learned his forestry in Dublin, and worked in British Columbia and Nigeria before taking up his present post as Professor of Forestry and Wood Science in the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

N. O'CARROLL