

## BOOK REVIEWS

PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND PHOTO-INTERPRETATION; WITH A SECTION ON APPLICATIONS TO FORESTRY. By Stephen H. Spurr. 2nd edition; 472 p., illustrated. The Ronald Press Co., New York. 1960. 12 dollars.

This is the best introduction and treatise on the use of aerial photographs as an operational tool for the scientist, engineer and forester, that I have so far had the pleasure of reading.

In less than 500 pages, splendidly illustrated with diagrams and photographs, and in a very readable and concise language, Professor Spurr has produced for us a text book which opens the door to most questions dealing with the aerial photograph and the principles and use of photogrammetry and mapping. There are also 100 pages on photo interpretation which would intrigue most laymen almost as much as those engaged in any of the related vocations.

The volume is very carefully indexed and divided into sections, making it instantly possible to turn up any facet, whether one wishes to find out how aerial photographs are taken, how to work out the precise height of a building on a single photograph, settle an argument on displacement, learn what type of instruments are used for different mapping applications, or find out why aircrew, on vertical photographic duties in this country, prefer to sleep under the wing of their aircraft rather than fly during the central part of a cloudless summer day.

In the last part of the book applications confined to forestry are discussed in the same lucid manner. Also detailed are the methods of obtaining stand volume using factors derived from the photographs, e.g. crown diameters, crown closure, and stem heights. The preparation of a forest inventory from aerial photographs, supplemented possibly by ground survey parties, is discussed in detail.

For those who wish to go more deeply into any of the specific problems or subjects, Professor Spurr provides a copious and very wide range of world authorities which he has selected from writings dating from the early thirties up until the present day.

This is indeed a most valuable contribution and a "must" for the shelf of the rapidly increasing number of users of aerial photographs in New Zealand.

— H.P.D. van A.