

controversy over burning and the development of the aerial transport industry are covered fully, the latter making an especially interesting story. The role of harmful animals is explained and the periodicity of crises and conferences documented. The regional and catchment control schemes — the four regional schemes cover 3 000 000 acres and the 23 catchment schemes cover nearly 1 000 000 — are described, many of them patently success stories through co-ordinated self-help.

The latter chapters include accounts of troublesome periods: the struggle of the Council to refute the damaging allegations of the 1949 Report of the Sheep Industry Commission; the soil conservators' relegation to the Agriculture Department in 1955 and then their return to the Ministry of Works in 1966; the dispute about the setting up of the Waikato Valley Authority; and the struggle for the allocation of more resources to soil conservation, instead of the disproportionately large allocation to river control. In 1967 the passing of the legislative keystone, the 1967 Water and Soil Conservation Act, established a supreme Water and Soil Conservation Authority in charge of the troika of the Soil Conservation Council, the Water Pollution Council and the Water Allocation Council. The agents at the local level of each of these lesser councils were to be the catchment boards and commissions. The extension of the purviews of these grass-root organizations to take in water allocation and regulation of waste disposal is seen as a desirable development.

The book ends on a high note by restrainedly listing achievements and looking confidently to the future. This is a good story, well told. Through it run the political philosophies of persuasion and voluntary contribution rather than compulsion, and justifiable cost-sharing by the public rather than hand-outs to the farmers. The only regret the reviewer has is that L. W. McCaskill waited until 1969 — when he published the story of Molesworth — before he wrote at length about what he knows so well.

P.J.McK.

**A BIT ABOUT THE BUSH**, by George N. Baur. Government Printer, New South Wales, 1972. 87 pp., illus.

This book, subtitled "Forests and Forestry in New South Wales", is an interesting attempt at educating the public in forestry. Parts are very good for this purpose, but the value of the book is considerably diminished by heavy opening chapters, a lack of imaginative presentation, and by poor supporting illustrations.

Baur starts with a description of the commercially important trees indigenous to N.S.W. The tree descriptions are too short to be meaningful and the illustrations of leaves and fruits are too generalized and small to be of much use. Some photographs are included but these also are too small and mostly of low quality. The chapter could have been markedly improved by good photographs supported by simpler descriptions. The second chapter, on the forest types of N.S.W., also

lacks clarity, although it contains more detail than should be necessary in a book of this type. Baur appears to be trying to cater for a range of readers that is too wide; this chapter would probably confuse a layman and be insufficient for a botanist or forester.

The following chapters are more rewarding, if predictable, and possibly too elementary in parts. Utilization of forest products is given only cursory treatment, but the final chapters on forest management, protection and recreation are very good. The main faults are writing that rambles occasionally, and a lack of satisfactory illustrations. Further, the treatment given to these sections is inconsistent. Rather than inform his readers, Baur appears at times to be trying to convince them. His arguments for clearcutting of indigenous forests, and for the development of new forests, are clear and logical, but the information given on the establishment, tending and harvesting of these forests is comparatively sketchy.

The book is attractively bound and the standard of printing the text is high; the book is thus easy to read. Unfortunately, the contents do not measure up to the book's appearance, although it may go some way to increasing the public's awareness of forestry. Those interested in producing a book for this purpose would do well to read *A Bit About the Bush*, but there is not a great deal to recommend the book to others.

P.W.H.

FOREST INVENTORY (Volume II), by F. Loetsch, F. Zohrer and K. Haller. 1973. English by K. F. Panzer. 493 pp. 153 b & w illustrations. Edited by the BLV Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Munich, Bern, Vienna. DM 195.

*Forest Inventory*, Volume I, was published in 1964. The death of Dr Haller, co-author of the volume, has delayed the publication of Volume II until 1973. Despite this delay and the change in co-authorship, Volume II retains the style and character of the earlier work, and the two volumes form a valuable reference work on forest inventory methodology. Volume I was not reviewed in this *Journal*, but covers the statistics of forest inventory (280 pages) and information from aerial photographs (115 pages). Over half of Volume II is devoted to inventory data derived from field measurements and observations. The treatment is traditional. Areas, species, tree size, form, quality, bark, increment, and density are covered with teutonic thoroughness. The accompanying bibliography is excellent, being up-to-date, extensive and international. Not only does it reflect the authors' experience in central European forestry and large-scale tropic forest inventory on FAO assignment, it also includes recent work from North American, Scandinavian and other European sources.

Two further chapters cover the concepts and use of sample plots and Bitterlich methods of plotless sampling. The sources of possible sampling error are discussed in detail, as is the field work in establishing new sample points in the forest. Those readers who suspect that the traditional sample plot