

*CATCHMENT CONTROL IN NEW ZEALAND*, by A. L. Poole, 185 pp. Published by the Water and Soil Division, Ministry of Works and Development, Wellington.

In a country where damaging floods and severe erosion and sedimentation problems are commonplace, New Zealand taxpayers could be excused for querying the roles and effectiveness of catchment authorities. In his book *Catchment Control in New Zealand* A. L. Poole leaves no doubt in readers' minds that catchment authorities are indeed fulfilling a valuable and important role in New Zealand's development. Poole presents a comprehensive historical over-view of the water and soil problems faced by New Zealand's various catchment authorities and their efforts to ameliorate and control these problems. *Catchment Control in New Zealand* also provides an excellent insight into the rather complex legislation pertaining to soil and water in New Zealand.

After introductory chapters concerned with a global overview, the settlement of New Zealand and the legislation related to soil and water conservation, Poole deals with New Zealand's 18 catchment authorities and two major urban regional bodies in turn. Descriptions of the physical nature of the various catchment authority districts, their early histories and the major drainage, irrigation, flood protection and erosion control schemes, are accompanied by maps and over 150 black and white photographs.

Foresters may be disappointed at the lack of emphasis on the important roles played by forests in water and soil conservation although the use of trees in coastal sand erosion control, the East Cape exotic forest project and other afforestation projects in Marlborough and parts of the North Island are briefly mentioned. Overall, *Catchment Control in New Zealand* is a useful publication which should provide foresters, agriculturalists and other land managers with an improved appreciation of the past and current work of the catchment authorities. Such an appreciation will be needed if catchment authorities are to develop a closer association with local communities as suggested in the last chapter of this book.

C.O'L.