

REVIEWS

FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS VOCABULARY, by Mirja Ruokonen MH, FK, Huk. 459 pp. Published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal. UK £22.50, US\$45.00.

This vocabulary is simply an exhaustive listing of forestry, forest product and related terminology "prepared at minimal cost and in a short time, so as to get it up to date". The terms are listed against a source reference to which the curious researcher must refer if he wishes further information. The book is neither a thesaurus nor a dictionary and only rarely does it give the briefest clue to term meaning. As such it is necessarily a basic resource book for a large technical library servicing people who do a lot of writing for an international audience.

The vocabulary is seen as the first stage of a series of works on forestry terminology, which are likely to be of interest to a wider audience, and it is of perhaps parochial interest to note the credit given in the introduction to one of our members, Geoff Chavasse, who "made perhaps the most useful single contribution, which has gone a long way towards seeing that New Zealand terms are fully represented".

J. R. PUREY-CUST

THE RELASCOPE IDEA, by Walter Bitterlich. 260 pp. Published by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal. Price around \$NZ68.

Almost all foresters have had exposure to "plotless inventory", angle gauges and relascopes, and know of Walter Bitterlich who conceived and developed this lateral approach to forest sampling and measurement. *The Relascope Idea* is a comprehensive survey of the theory and practice of these less-intuitive angle count sampling concepts, that are of utility in tree population volumetric surveys, and as we are informed on reading, applications extending as far as recreation counts on people!

In elaborating on his angle count sampling (ACS) and relascope theme, Bitterlich draws on alternative approaches to ACS theory and field techniques accumulated in the intervening forty years since his initial publication. For instance, Grosenbaugh's probabalistic model of ACS and his as well as Beers' treatment

of sampling near forest margins receive attention too. Bad ACS habits, such as "the constant tally rule", which is analogous to varying plot size within a stratum, are noted also. Descriptions of the various ACS instruments ranging from one's thumb to tele-relascopes add greatly to the book's usefulness.

ACS initially had uneven acceptance in New Zealand with managers seemingly more comfortable with volumetric survey results determined by bounded plots. However, as the N.Z. Forest Service's MARVL* pre-harvest cruise with its "double sampling angle gauge" option has gained acceptance and with it a means to increased relascope experience, the cost effectiveness and reliability of angle gauge sampling and measurement are now beyond doubt. It might be added here that it is a pity (though understandable) that the MARVL inventory, which uses relascopes both for sample tree selection and for estimating upper stem diameters, did not rate a mention in the chapter on ACS in various countries. For undoubtedly this is a substantial antipodean application of ACS. On a less parochial note, one might also question the amount of space devoted to calculator programs in this age of microcomputers.

If one considers this book to be built on a revolutionary concept — ACS — and its evolution, then the author (with his "ghost" William Finlayson) have, despite translation from German, managed to impart a sense of discovery and intuitiveness. Larger print would have enhanced readability of what can be a dry subject to many, but at the risk no doubt, of increasing the book's price.

The verdict: A somewhat specialised but important reference book because it provides, in one volume, *the* definitive ACS historical perspective, a bibliography and ACS information for mensurationalists, students and practising foresters in the natural resource survey area.

J. V. LEITCH

*MARVL — "Method for the assessment of recoverable volume by log types."