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BOOK REVIEW

CHOUARD, P., BILDERLING DE, N. (ed.): **Phytotronics III. Phytotronics in Agricultural and Horticultural Research.** — Gauthier — Villars, Paris, 1975, 410 pp., Figures and Tables (in English and French).

The term "phytotronics" was coined at an UNESCO sponsored meeting in London more than ten years ago. Since that time phytotronics became a respectable branch of science dealing with technique of phytotron equipment and with the methodology of research. Both these aspects are well represented in this volume. The book gathers more than fifty contributions presented at the 19th Horticultural Congress held in Warsaw in 1974. In this respect it represents an equivalent of Phytotronics II, containing papers read at the 18th Horticultural Congress in Tel Aviv. The volume comprises three parts corresponding to three Congress sessions: I — Phytotrons in horticultural research, II — Climate within protected spaces and III — Glass and plastic greenhouses, their equipment and management. The parts are of unequal length, the first extending over one half of the book, the second being roughly one third.

The inevitable attribute of this kind of Congress-Proceedings is an unbalanced distribution of topics between different chapters, some clearly overlapping and some being dealt with on more than one place. Similarly the contributions are of unequal quality and presentation. The editors seem to be very cautious to preserve the original set-up of the sessions. The problems treated in the book are ranging from purely technical problems, such as spectral composition of artificial light, to specialized questions concerning plant development, such as substitution of an inductive short day by low temperature treatment in some SD plants. Much attention is devoted to the role of phytotrons in constructing plant growth models and it is along this line that further progress may be expected. The greatest value of the book is the delineation of new limits in phytotronics and the reflection of its current trends.

The book should be obligatory reading for everybody interested in phytotronics and will equally appeal to technicians, plant physiologists and horticulturists.

We share prof. Chouard's view that we are entering a "Phytotronic era". Books like Phytotronics III are most helpful in taking a further step towards it and the editors are to be congratulated on their effort and enthusiasm.

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