

### BOOK REVIEW

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*The Study of Plant Communities. Second Edition.*

By Henry J. Oosting. W. H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, California, VIII + 440, ill. 1956. \$6.00.

This textbook of basic phytoecology which has been widely used with much success has not only been revised but in part rewritten. The previous chapter on "Physiographic Factors" has been expanded into two: "Pedogenesis" and "Edaphology." However, it still remains one of our most efficient texts: no padding and to the point.

The author adequately covers the field of ecology from environmental factors affecting vegetation to community dynamics and organization (including phytosociology) and certain phases of phytogeography. Differing points of view and methods are presented, e. g., monoclimal and polyclimax theories and the various types of sampling.

The illustrations which have been increased from 190 to 198 are well-selected and very informative. The number of tables has been increased from ten to eleven by the addition of one on "life-form spectra for the four major climatic types and the normal spectrum." The final lists of references has been expanded from 276 to 439 and is very valuable as are the general references at the end of each chapter.

One of the most interesting, and for society certainly the most important, chapters is the final one entitled "Applied Ecology." If the facts and philosophy here expressed were more generally and fully understood by man, many of our severest problems would be more amenable to solution.