

REVIEW

Rice. BY D. H. GRIST. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., London. Available in India from Orient Longmans Ltd., Bombay, Calcutta & Madras, 1953. Price. 35 s.

Rice is the staple food of the great majority of the people of Asia and the most important single crop in the world today. It is also the crop which is in short supply and increase of rice production is the most important problem facing the agriculturists of the world today, especially in India. The only previous book on this crop by E. R. Copeland, was published more than thirty years ago and much of the matter included in it is out of date. From this view-point Grist's book meets an urgent demand.

The author, who writes from a long experience of rice cultivation in South-East Asia, has covered almost all aspects of rice production, such as irrigation, varieties, pests and diseases, methods of cultivation, fertilisers and manures, storage, milling and economics of the crop. The book is neatly printed and illustrated by numerous drawings and photographs, some of which are in colour. A few errors however, have crept in. For example, Fig. 4 would be better described as a spikelet or flower of rice rather than as "Inflorescence of rice". It can be hoped that such minor mistakes will be corrected in the next edition. Meanwhile, this book can be recommended as a very useful aid to all who are engaged in the cultivation of rice.

A. C. J.