

## BOOK NOTICE.

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Phytopathology, the pathology or study of diseases of plants, occupies a prominent position in the many Agricultural Experiment Stations in the United States. The Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D.C., employs a large and efficient staff of specialists, devoting the whole of their time to the study of minute plant organisms causing disease in vegetation of all kinds, and also to the solution of the perplexing problems connected with the protection of plant life. Dr. Erwin F. Smith, who ranks among the most prominent members of the staff, is in charge of the Laboratory of Plant Pathology. His laboratory, which I have had the pleasure of visiting occasionally, is and deserves to be, because of its magnificent equipment, the basis of all plant pathological work of the Bureau of Plant Industry. It receives an appropriation of from \$19,000 to \$22,500 per annum of which nearly \$15,000 is paid in salaries. Under his direction there are, besides the central laboratory, other laboratories devoted to the investigation of diseases of forest trees, grain, fodder, vegetable and other crops, each with separate endowments.

Nearly every State possesses its own Experiment Station, on the staff of which there are one or more plant pathologists of great activity. This activity manifests itself every year by the large amount of publications, in form of Bulletins and Annual Reports, of more or less important nature, distributed gratuitously throughout the different States. The Americans take far more interest in the progress of this comparatively new science, than may be boasted of elsewhere, probably with the exception of Germany—the home and birthplace of this discipline. The extent of their experiments in field and laboratory are truly American. One may say that to each experimental plant in Europe, there are a hundred, or more, in the United States.

In view of these facts it is only surprising that, with so large a body of trained men interested in the study of diseases, the birth of a society devoted to phytopathological interests, has not taken place sooner. It was my privilege to be present at the inaugural meeting of the new Phytopathological Society, held at Boston at the time of the meeting of the American Asso-