

A Book On The Avocado

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It is rather surprising that a book on the avocado published in 1933 in Brazil has apparently escaped the attention of "Avocadans" in California. It is "Do Abacateiro e do Abacate" (The avocado tree and the avocado) by Carvalho Barbosa, published in Portuguese by Typ. Siqueira, Sao Paulo. It is obtainable from Escola Superior de Agricultura e Veterinaria do Estado de Minas Geraes, Sao Paulo, Brazil, for 10 milreis, plus postage, which amounts to about \$1.25.

The book consists of 342 pages with 119 figures and a bibliography of some 86 titles. The preface is by Professor P. H. Rolfs who, with his daughter, Clarissa, collaborated with the author in the preparation of the manuscript and the bibliography. The frontispiece gives an excellent likeness of Professor Rolfs and is accompanied by a biographical sketch and a list of his publications. The contents include the following: history, synonymy, botany, races, varieties, climate, propagation, culture, flowering and fruiting habits, harvesting, packing, cultural costs during the first five years, insects and diseases, chemistry, food value, uses, by-products.

Most of the illustrations are original, although some appear familiar, such as terraced hillsides of La Habra Heights, the immense tree of *Persea drymifolia* photographed by Wilson Popenoe, and several insect pests from a Mexican publication. Variety descriptions include familiar names from California, Florida and the United States Department of Agriculture introductions, and in addition, the following unfamiliar ones: Sant' Anna, Acosta, Hernandez, Avila, Abacate Muido, Verde, Verde de Pescoco, Liso, Cabacinha, Casca de Carvalho, Abacate Roxo.

The book is interesting for reference purposes and, doubtless, many will desire to obtain copies. It might be well to pool orders or have some local book store obtain copies for California patrons.