

SNOW. BY R. W. TRUEMAN. *Sixth book in the series entitled Our Science Program. Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada, 1973. 6¼ x 9 inches, 32 pages, illustrated. Set of 10 copies \$10.00.*

This is a delightful addition to the numerous activity books accumulated by children in their explorations of the world around them. The booklet may be tiny, but it contains a variety of accurate snow-related material. The children's contributions are well chosen and appropriately illustrated. In fact all the drawings and pictures are presented in chilly tones of blue, grey and white. The historical anecdotes and stories are refreshingly unusual, and of particular interest is the Eskimo and Indian lore. There is also a generous sprinkling of mathematical and social science material.

In the accompanying introduction, the author suggests that "Snow" is an inquiry book involving student discovery through the use of open-ended questions and overlapping subject area, rather than the employment of

the more common "recipe book" approach to science studies. Unfortunately, the major weakness of the book lies in this effort to integrate so many subject divisions and still attempt to provide pupil discovery activity. Investigative problems account for only one third of the content of "Snow", and the most unusual science questions, ones that could provoke exciting investigations, are so lacking in structure that they appear to have been used as "page fillers" rather than given an experimental prominence.

I would suggest that "Snow" is excellent for home use by the inquisitive 10-12-year-old youngster, but is less adequate in the classroom, unless the curriculum is completely unstructured, in which case the teacher would have time to encourage pupils to develop the inquiry skills the author states are possible.

"Snow" can well provide numerous activities for most children to engage in, but it is primarily a "taste", rather than a "full plate", of involvement with such an important and fascinating topic.

*Lila Wolfe*