

tions, a number of the maps emphasize the importance of the great mass of the St. Elias mountains and their icefields as a biogeographic barrier. The illustrations, from several sources, usually adequately show the general appearance, but give no details of flower structure.

There is a good introduction that deals, among other topics, with vegetation types, which should be read thoroughly. It is followed by a key to trees, a winter key to deciduous trees, a key to genera of shrubs, and a winter key to shrubs. Other keys occur in the text as appropriate, and for *Salix* there is a vegetative key as well as the regular one, and even a special key for use in the area of overlap of three difficult species. The authors acknowledge the use of a manuscript copy of the new treatment of *Salix* in Alaska and Yukon by George Argus. Genera and species run in taxonomic sequence, bringing related plants conveniently together, which is much easier on the reader than the alphabetical sequence used in some recent floras. Thus *Phylodoce* and *Cassiope* are adjacent.

Synonyms are omitted except for names used in other floras of this general region. In a few instances some readers will inevitably disagree with the rank (species vs. subspecies), but only additional field and experimental study can settle such issues. The authors call the crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, as did Calder and Taylor, and avoid the complex problem of ssp. *hermaphroditum*. It may be noted in passing (although this alone does not allow positive assignment) that it is very easy to show that a fruiting specimen had perfect flowers: examine the calyx ends of the fruits with a lens, and the old stamens may be seen between the calyx and fruit. *Ledum groenlandicum* is justifiably restored to specific rank. Because it is occasionally quite small-leaved at unfavourable sites further distinctions are worth noting. In *L. groenlandicum* fine white hairs are abundant on pedicels and capsules; and the coarse rusty hairs are absent from pedicels and calyx. In *L. (palustre ssp.) decumbens* the white hairs are few and small or lacking on pedicels and capsules; and the rusty hairs are few to many on pedicels and usually fringe the calyx lobes. The distinction in pedicel shape is reliable in fruit but often fails in flower.

The authors have provided common names for all species, not always with unqualified success for small plants that are seldom distinguished by the layman. Starry cassiope seems to me a poorer choice than Steller's cassiope for *Cassiope stelleriana*. In this connection it may be noted that Stevens (New Phytologist 69: 1131-1148, 1970) strongly supports the segregation of this unusual species as

*Harrimanella stellariana* (Pall.) Coville.

*Andromeda polifolia* is mentioned as having toxic foliage, but *Kalmia* species, including *polifolia*, have been more often implicated in livestock deaths. The suggestion that the bitter taste is a safeguard is overoptimistic, for small children will eat quantities of chokecherries, tatarian honeysuckle berries and even quinine tablets; and a taste revolting to adults is literally no protection to them.

The book seems very free of misprints. On p. 56 the Mosquito aircraft, designed round the availability of clear Sitka spruce long enough for the main spar, should be capitalized, the word denoting its name rather than its prey. The only other slip noticed is the almost inevitable one in my own name, which bothers me only when I am told that I misspell it!

D. B. O. Savile

DIARY OF THE 'TERRA NOVA' EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC 1910-1912. BY EDWARD WILSON. New York: Humanities Press, Inc., 1972. 7 $\frac{3}{8}$  x 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, 279 pages, 27 watercolours. \$19.50.

This is an account of Scott's last expedition from the original manuscripts in the Scott Polar Research Institute and the British Museum.

In 1966, the publication of Edward Wilson's diary of the British National Antarctic expedition of 1901-1904 was received with the greatest interest by the public. Now, his diary of the Terra Nova expedition of 1910-1912 should be welcomed with even greater enthusiasm, especially by those sincerely interested in polar exploration. As Sir Charles Wright says in the foreword "it is a major contribution to Antarctic history".

Dr. Wilson was a medical man, an ornithologist, and an artist. He was the scientific Director of the expedition and had working with him scientists of various disciplines. The diary was written primarily for his family, but it is obviously the journal of a naturalist who missed no opportunity to record in detail anything and everything that was of scientific interest. And so, the diary has a wealth of information about the Antarctic. An indefatigable worker, Dr. Wilson's working day began at about 4:30 A.M. when he rose to sketch the sunrise or work on his ornithology — and finished at 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. when he was too sleepy to stay awake. Indeed he often wrote standing up because he feared he would fall asleep if he sat down. He does not mention the time given to help his companions, help given so gladly and generously that he was known

to the whole expedition as "Uncle Bill" and gained the everlasting gratitude and love of all of them.

To fully understand the part that Dr. Wilson played in the expedition, one should really have read Captain Scott's last journal, Cherry-Garrard's wonderful book "The Worst Journey in the World", or the biographical studies of Wilson by George Seaver. There is a sense of disappointment at the lack of personal references to his companions in the diary. There is no indication of Wilson's influence in assisting and consulting with Captain Scott—that must be learned from other sources and the difficulties are all played down. For example, in the great storm that overtook the heavily overladen Terra Nova on the voyage out, he described the struggles and discomforts but concluded "I must say I enjoyed it all from beginning to end—and as one break after another became untenable, I thought things were becoming interesting"! Again, when he and his companions arrived at the South Pole to find that the Norwegians had already been there, there is no hint of the bitter disappointment they all felt. Surely there was never a man who could more completely "meet with Triumph or Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same". The explanation lay in what his religion meant to him.

Dr. Wilson's account of the last sad journey to the Pole is written with the same restraint, characteristic of the whole diary. It is interesting to compare his narrative with that of Captain Scott. Scott's diary was continued to the end, while that of Wilson stopped about a month before. In the introduction the reason for this is given as: "Wilson's adherence to his own maxim to become entirely careless of your own soul and body in looking after the welfare of others. All his dwindling energies were needed to keep the others going". He was, of course, the only doctor of the five who reached the pole. Captain Scott wrote to Mrs. Wilson while they were waiting blizzard-bound in the tent "his eyes have a comfortable blue look of hope and his mind is peaceful with the satisfaction of his faith in regarding himself as part of the great scheme of the Almighty. I can do no more to comfort you than to tell you that he died as he lived, a brave true man, the best of comrades and staunchest of friends"—a great tribute from one fine man to another.

The illustrations are a representative selection of Dr. Wilson's delightful pencil and water-colour sketches. This book is a must on the shelves of all Polar enthusiasts.

Half of the royalties received by the Scott Polar Research Institute from the sale of this book will be used to provide Wilson Memorial grants to help young men and women to

undertake field-work in Polar regions. The remainder will be used to assist the work of the Institute.

Carol Maass

**JAMES BAY: THE PLOT TO DROWN THE NORTH WOODS.** BY BOYCE RICHARDSON. *A Sierra Club Battlebook*. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin and Company Limited, 1972. 5 1/8 x 7 7/8 inches, 190 pages, illustrated. \$2.75.

The Sierra Club in sponsoring this book has done us all a great service. The author by his skilful and imaginative writing has produced a narrative which has tremendous impact. After reading only a few pages, it is difficult to put the book down until the theme has been fully expounded and the book finished. This is a book that should be read by all *Québécois*, indeed by all Canadians and informed Americans, as its implications extend far beyond provincial boundaries. It should be of particular interest to those concerned with northern development. If widely read it could influence the course of events in James Bay, with political repercussions provincially and perhaps federally.

It is a book with a motive. The protection of the natural environment in all its diversity, including: scenery, plants, animals and the right of indigenous people to live a traditional way of life, in harmony with nature. In espousing this cause it is biased, but considerably less biased than: "Development of the James Bay Territory, Initial Phase—James Bay Development Corporation, information (undated)." This appears to be the only official document available to the interested public to supplement press releases, often designed to maximize political benefits, and magazine articles, which unashamedly support either the development ethic, or side with the native peoples, who are helplessly manipulated in the process. At least the author's bias is not misleading in a potentially dangerous way, which may not be true about everything else that has been written about the James Bay scheme. Essentially this is an engineering proposal to harness the hydro electric potential of a group of rivers discharging into James Bay, and latest proposals apparently include diversion of the headwaters of a major river which flows north into Ungava Bay. In the aggrandizement of the scheme its promoters mention side benefits such as better roads and communications, forestry development, mineral extraction and a tourist influx for hunting and fishing. These help justify the incredible spiralling costs which, in the space of several months, have risen from 2 to 6 and now may exceed 10