

not to be the case. Even if the pictures portray relevant situations, there is a greyishness in many of the black and white pictures which does not go with the overall high quality of the work. In certain cases the photo material is old, and then the grey tone is understandable; however, I find recent pictures too are poor and unimaginative, and not even the colour pictures give the right splendour to the beauty of the wide flatness of the Laotakjaure delta with its snowclad background, or of the serene view through mountain birch groves in the Rapa valley, both in the Sarek National Park.

There is a very wide range of articles. Part one is divided into two main sections: "Old Lappland" and "Today's Lappland." The remainder of Part I and Part II gives a regional presentation of the distinct Lappmarks with some 15 articles for each of the two northernmost areas: Lule and Torne Lappmarks. The section on old Lappland in Part I is fascinating reading for a geographer as the articles cover both geology and aspects of the human geography, colonization, and settlement development of Lappland by such well-known authors as G. Lundquist (geology) and E. Manker and E. Bylund (colonization and settlement). The section on today's Lappland consists of contributions by such specialists as Gunnar Hoppe (geomorphology), C. C. Wallen (climate), W. Schytt (glaciology), and F. Hjulström (hydrology), to mention only a few.

The presentations of the Lappmark-regions are extensive and one gets a very intimate picture of landscape and nature from intelligent and enthusiastic writers of academic standing and with a particular knowledge of the region. For the reader unfamiliar with vast area of Sweden, the numerous maps accompanying some of the articles facilitate understanding. In some cases, additional maps would have made the distribution and regional characteristics of particular phenomena even more appreciated.

Of great value to the interested reader is the bibliography that goes with the majority of articles, in which references to both Swedish and English literature are cited.

Finally, this work is partly a cultural history and this is most vividly realized if Lappland is put in its proper national con-

text, which is beautifully done by Carl Fries. In the introduction, Fries describes his feelings and memories of Lappland in the 1910's, when he travelled in the interior for the first time, encountering the virgin forests, before the days of modern efficient forest management, and compares what he saw then with today's controlled landscape. The reader is by this personal experience made aware of the penetration into this wilderness that the last 50 years have witnessed. Fries makes a bitter attack on these modern intrusions into the last remaining wide natural areas of western Europe and can see nothing but unnecessary and shortsighted exploitation of the environment and its few inhabitants. Although all decisions are lawful, they militate against a minority who are fighting hopeless odds in an effort to preserve the environment they have grown up with. Israel Ruong, of Same origin, gives similar visions of exploitation of these areas by outside sources, not for the benefit of the inhabitants but for people and areas "far away from the brook and the lake and the people and the houses along the shores."

*Jan Lundgren*

**THE MYTH ABOUT LAPPLAND: ESSAYS.** BY JOHAN PALSTIG. *Stockholm: Natur och Kultur. 1963. 115 pages. Sw. crowns 14.50.*

This is a fascinating book on the gradual cultural integration of Swedish Lappland into the national state of Sweden. The process began early: the Viking kings were the first to show an interest in the lands of the Same people and traded for furs with those living in Lycksele Lappmark as early as the late ninth century.

The author focuses on the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, when the Same people in Lappland were confronted with central government policies for colonization and settlement, dealt with in the provocatively titled chapters, "Occupied Lappland" and "The Christening of Lappland."

A translation of this book into English would interest many readers.

*Jan Lundgren*