

Reviews

THE NEW PEOPLE: THE ESKIMO'S JOURNEY INTO OUR TIME. By EDITH IGLAUER. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1966. 5½ x 8½ inches. 205 pages. \$5.00.

The New People might have been another of the my-two-weeks-in-the-Arctic type of book except for three things. First, the author, a graduate of Wellesley and the Columbia School of Journalism, had a purpose for her trips, other than simply travelling and sight-seeing. Secondly, she gives a clearly written account of everyone she met and everything she saw; and thirdly, she has an interest in and affection for the Eskimos of the Canadian Eastern Arctic.

Mrs. Iglauer first became interested in the co-operative movement in northern Canada when she met Donald Snowdon, then chief of the Industrial Department of the Department of Northern Affairs, in New York a few months before her first trip.

In 1961 she accompanied Snowdon and Paul Godt, head of the Co-operative Development Section of the division, on their inspection tour of the Ungava co-operatives. They visited Fort Chimo; George River, where there was a saw-mill and logging operation, a char-freezing operation, and a vigorous handicraft industry; and Port Burnwell, with its seal- and char-freezing industries, and handicrafts.

In 1963 Mrs. Iglauer's second trip took her to Frobisher Bay where she attended, as observer, the First Conference of the Arctic Co-operatives.

Her third trip took her up the west coast of Hudson Bay to Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Eskimo Point. Again she was accompanying Mr. Snowdon, the purpose of whose trip this time was to check on the Eskimo response to locally canned seal and whale meats.

The fourth and last trip was to be again to Baffin Island, but weather forced the plane to land at Fort Chimo; so the author, on her own initiative, hired a plane and returned to George River, the first settlement she had visited, to see how it had fared and grown in the three years since she had been there.

The co-operative movement in northern Canada was a concept alien to Eskimo thinking and way of life. It demands living in settlements rather than leading nomadic lives, and working for one's neighbour, rather than for

one's self. And yet, slowly, the Eskimos have accepted this way of life, having seen how they and their communities have benefited by it. Mrs. Iglauer's book gives us an insight into the actual workings of these northern co-ops, and how they are run by their Eskimo owners. Though originally set up with the white man's help, they are now run by Eskimo councils — two still accept help from their local missionary or RCMP constable (keeping accounts in syllabics can be tricky), and one even has a white man on its hired staff.

Great attention is paid to the many council meetings Mrs. Iglauer attended, from the small local ones to the Conference in Frobisher Bay, and the author's journalistic training comes to the fore at these times. She has an eye for detail — whether verbal or visual — that makes the reader feel he is "really there." Her description of the types of food being experimentally prepared by Eric Hofman — such succulent items as muskrat pepperoni, pickled smoked muskrat, whale meat loaf, seal meat with onion sauce, seal heart sweet and sour, seal-liver pate, walrus meat in Spanish sauce, sealburger in tomato sauce, pickled whale flippers and walrus flippers vinaigrette — forced the reviewer to creep from her bed where she had been reading this book in the middle of the night and go to the kitchen to prepare a toasted peanut butter sandwich, the southern equivalent, perhaps, of the Eskimo favourite, canned muktuk.

The book is handsomely bound, and includes a map, showing the position of all the places visited by the author. Regrettably, there are no photographs of these settlements.

NORA T. CORLEY

THE NUNAMIUT ESKIMOS: HUNTERS OF CARIBOU. By NICHOLAS J. GUBSER, with a Foreword by GEORGE PETER MURDOCK. *New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1965. (Distributed by McGill University Press in Canada.)* 6½ x 9½ inches. xv 384 pages, glossary, bibliography, index. \$8.50.

Among ethnological works on the Eskimo, this book ranks with the most significant on at least three counts. First, it deals with an inland group of Eskimo, the Nunamiut of the Brooks Range in Northern Alaska, who depend on caribou hunting in a harsh mountain environment for their survival. Most other