

Survey, they visited the Washington Office of the Arctic Institute of North America. There they spent the day in conference with an American group consisting of Mr. Robert C. Faylor, Director of the Washington Office, Capt. E. A. McDonald, U.S.N. (Ret.), Capt. John Cadwalader, U.S.N.R. (Ret.), Cdr. Edward G. Grant, U.S.N., Mr. John T. Crowell of the National Science Foundation, and Mr. Richard C. Vetter of the National Academy of Sciences, who are experienced in icebreaker operations and familiar with the capabilities of this type of ship for carrying out oceanographic and other scientific work. The discussions were interesting and illuminating and ranged from very general to very specific problems. Most of the problems stem from the many compromises that have to be made in the design of a vessel that must carry a considerable amount of cargo, operate helicopters, traverse thousands of miles of stormy seas, break through hundreds of miles of heavy ice, and have the stabil-

ity, space, and auxiliary power needed by the scientists on board.

A great deal of experience has been gained since World War II in the attempts to meet these conflicting requirements and the group from the British Admiralty seemed determined to learn everything possible from this experience. The resulting icebreaker should be a most interesting and effective vessel.

Technical Papers of the Arctic Institute

No. 13 of this series, *RADIOLARIA IN PLANKTON FROM THE ARCTIC DRIFTING STATION T-3, Including the Description of Three New Species*. By KUNIGUNDE HÜLSEMANN. 1963, 51 pages, 5 tables, 24 figures, has appeared. Copies can be obtained from the Montreal Office at the price of \$1.00 to members, \$2.00 to non-members.

Correction

In volume 16, page 279, right-hand column, line 8: for "Vancouver" read "Victoria".

Reviews

ARCTIC ODYSSEY. The life of Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan. By EVERETT S. ALLEN. *Toronto: Dodd, Mead and Co. (Canada), Ltd.* 1962. 8½ x 5¾ inches. viii + 340 pages, endpaper maps, 2 sketch maps, numerous photographs, tables. \$6.00.

Rear Admiral Donald Baxter MacMillan's long and active life as an arctic explorer spanned the years between Peary's last expedition and 1957. In that year he flew over the North Pole, and saw below him once again the ice over which he had struggled as the leader of one of Peary's supporting parties in 1909. MacMillan now lives in retirement in Provincetown, Massachusetts, the town where he was born in 1874.

This unbalanced biography of MacMillan does less than justice to an almost legendary figure. For the life of

MacMillan contains all the ingredients of a success story. Born in humble circumstances, orphaned at an early age, struggling through poverty to obtain a decent education, working his way through college, teaching, MacMillan's experience and training before 1908 prepared him, physically and mentally, for the arduous life into which he plunged when he first went north with Peary. His travels up and down the Labrador coast, along which he canoed in 1911, the Crocker Land Expedition of 1913-17, and the voyages of the *Bowdoin* along the Labrador coast, to Baffin Island, and to northern Greenland—all these and the other exploits of MacMillan's fifty years in the North should have provided enough material for an interesting and informative biography.

This book could have told so much

about the travels and exploits of a grand old man, whose life has been dedicated to exploring the Arctic, and who, on the *Bowdoin*, introduced so many others to the land he knows so well.

Instead, Mr. Allen has written an adulatory account of some of MacMillan's expeditions and has skipped lightly over his other adventures. "Arctic Odyssey" has all the hallmarks of the worst sort of popular biography. Biography demands a sympathetic, or at least an empathetic approach, but this does not preclude objectivity. When Mr. Allen picked his title, he would have done well to remember that Odysseus had his faults, and yet remained a hero. "Arctic Odyssey" sounds more like a testimonial than a biography, and the well-loved figure of Donald MacMillan seldom emerges as a real human being.

Half the book deals with the period between 1908 and 1917. Much of the material paraphrases Peary's "The North Pole" and MacMillan's "Four years in the white north". "Etah and beyond" has also been quarried to provide a chapter.

Mr. Allen fails to fill out the gaps in MacMillan's life, about which little has been written — the first trip of the *Bowdoin* in 1921-2, the 1925 expedition with Byrd, and the various expeditions up and down the Labrador coast. There is altogether too much attention to trivialities and to the folksy side of MacMillan's life. MacMillan's scientific achievements receive lip service, but few details of this side of the man's career are given. An attempt is made to render the book more technical by adding the scientific names of birds and other animals in bracketed italics after the common names. At least once this device falls flat, when the arctic puffin is called *fratucula artica naumanni*. The translation of the same Eskimo word, such as *tupik*, being repeated over and over does not flatter the reader's intelligence or his memory.

In the first three chapters, and occasionally afterwards, the book sounds like a poor parody of Dylan Thomas's prose style, with overtones of "Moby Dick". "These sailors were the full-

bearded ones with hard, salt-reddened hands; strong, booming, and smelly, they were heroes", and "These Bankers, carefully spelled with an upper case "B" and no confusion, thank you, with the shore-based computers of assets and liabilities (for the former, the sailor had too few to bother with, and of the latter, once the land was hull down over the horizon, too many for a practical man to waste time worrying about), these Bankers, then, spoke their own tongue, tilted their own tools, named their own places" are fair samples of the prose in the early part of the book. Nor is Mr. Allen above inventing words when the English language fails him. Big schooners, on page 2, go "to the Grand Banks in summer and to the West Indies in winter, their lee rails under and sozzling all the way". On page 32 the word "scrooched" is used to describe the call of a gull; it might well have been coined to describe the effect of Mr. Allen's prose on the reader's ear.

Those who like to spot errors in arctic books will have a field day with this one. "Cannon Fjord" (p. 259), "Schei's Island" (p. 171), "Fox (Fuxe) Channel or Fox Basin" (p. 317) are some. The northern tip of Axel Heiberg Island is called "Cape Thomas Hubbard". The "Archives", presumably of Canada, are located in Toronto (p. 208). Mr. Allen notes, concerning the Franklin expedition, that "fourteen years after his (Franklin's) disappearance a record was found at Cape Herschel revealing the fate of the entire expedition—129 men!" He might well add that exclamation mark.

MacMillan stands alone in this book, his work and achievements unrelated to those of other explorers. Nor has the work of others before or since MacMillan's time been examined. MacMillan's taking a canoe through McLellan Strait was a considerable feat, but he was not the first to sail through this dangerous channel between the northern tip of Labrador and Killinek Island, as the book implies. MacMillan's expedition of 1925 hardly "proved conclusively that planes could be used to advantage beyond the Arctic Circle".

At the end of the book is a useful record of MacMillan's arctic voyages and an index. Endpaper maps show the areas in which MacMillan sailed and travelled. The book is well illustrated; a negative instead of a positive has been used for one photograph.

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THE CANADIAN OXFORD DESK ATLAS OF THE WORLD, 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1963. 120 pages of maps and supplementary tables, 12-page gazetteer of Canada, 20-page gazetteer of the world. 10 x 7½ inches. \$3.95.

This revised edition of "the most popular Canadian compact atlas" is recommended for its excellent editing, printing, new statistical information, and additional maps. Of the last named *Arctic* readers will note the zenithal equidistant projection of the Arctic (scale 1 in. = 400 mi., p. 1). This is the only addition of direct polar interest although minor alterations have been made to maps of Canada, the Northwest Territories and Antarctica. These include recognition of Inuvik and Frobisher Bay, in keeping with their increased importance since the first edition, and new locations of airports and communication lines and the latest position of the North Magnetic pole. Our greater knowledge and exploration of Antarctica since I.G.Y. are reflected by the exclusion of the limited zone of "areas not seen by man", designated previously. Presumably, the greater part of the continent has been seen, at least from the air. The legend explains the six categories of land and sea ice portrayed but otherwise few changes have been made.

The double page maps of Eurasia on the zenithal equal area projection include much of northeastern North America and permit the representation of several significant trans-polar relationships such as climate, vegetation, population and communications. Maps

of U.S.S.R. and Scandinavia portray these northern lands well, but a cartographic slip, by omission of white, has melted the glaciers in Iceland (page 60).

The 'Oxford photo-relief technique' successfully gives a three-dimensional effect to many of the topographical maps, but the appearance of several is marred by too dark a shade of grey. The same happens with the sea-ice symbols and they tend to obscure the lettering, particularly in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

As before, Canada receives the most detailed treatment with updated statistics and maps of the country as a whole and by regions showing topography, population, climate, agriculture, and other special topics. For the rest of the world, the regional treatment has been rearranged and eight pages of world economic maps added.

This atlas, either under the above title, or issued as the *Canadian Oxford School Atlas*, will enjoy the same success as the earlier editions.

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I POLI. By SILVIO ZAVATTI. Milan: Feltrinelli Editore. 1963. 7 x 4¼ inches, 266 pages, 17 plates, numerous sketch maps, diagrams, L 500.

The book is written for the non-specialist interested in the polar regions and gives information on the major expeditions made before 1958, independent of their scientific significance. Scientific facts are offered and controversies neglected, perhaps as it should be in a book of this nature. In keeping with the stated aim to provide adequate reference for lay readers, practically all subjects related to the polar regions are commented upon. Nevertheless the contents are not developed further than the advent of the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958, and therefore they are incomplete considering the year of publication. It is surprising that the author missed the chance to introduce information available in scientific