

A comparison of the ecology of lemming predators on Banks Island, N.W.T., Canada, with that in Alaska. Moss, Melvin L., College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, New York, U.S.A.
Skeletal physiology of arctic fish and marine invertebrates. Pitelka, Frank A., University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
Ecology of lemmings and other micro-

tines in northern Alaska. Steere, W. C., New York Botanical Garden, New York, New York, U.S.A.
Arctic American mosses. Tedrow, J. C. F., Rutgers—State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A.
A study of the pedologic processes operating in the arctic areas of Alaska.

Reviews

ARCTIC ISLAND HUNTER. By PAUL ADAMS. London: George Ronald. 1961. 136 pages, illustrated. 21 s.

The Germans have an expression to the effect that "when a person makes a journey, then he'll have a story to tell". Mr. Adams, a Londoner, sought adventure in the Arctic and tried Spitsbergen (not Spitzbergen), found something to tell—and wrote a book about his winter with the well-known Norwegian hunter Hilmar Nöis.

The year of hunting and trapping is faithfully recorded: travels on sea and ice and snow, the little things that are important in the life of the over-winterer, and also a visit to the Russians.

It makes entertaining, light reading for the interested who prefers to learn, in comfort, about the polar winter's cold and darkness, and the hunter's lonely life. Furthermore, of course, it is different from those tales one may hear these days, from tourists who visit Svalbard on organised summer tours. Mr. Adams saw another side of the country and people.

Some nice photographs enhance the book.

SVENN ORVIG

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION FROM SOMERSET ISLAND AND BOOTHIA PENINSULA, N.W.T. By JAMES W. VANSTONE. Pages 1 - 63, 2 maps, 11 plates.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HUMAN OSTEOLOGY OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC. By J. E. ANDERSON AND C. F. MERBS. Pages 65 - 94, 6 tables, map, diagram, 11 plates. Occasional Paper 4. Art and Archaeology Division, The Royal Ontario Museum and University of Toronto. Toronto University Press. 1962. 10 x 6¾ inches, paper. \$1.00.

Between 1939 and 1949 the remarkable Mr. L. A. Learmonth collected and sent to the Royal Ontario Museum archaeological materials from the Somerset-Boothia region. Dr. VanStone has selected, analysed, and interpreted a large part of the collection coming from seven sites. Reporting on materials with limited context information poses several problems that have been carefully recognized by the author. Following a historical summary are sections briefly describing the artifacts from each site, with an analytical summary indicating the ages and cultural relations of the occupations represented. The small body of Dorset specimens likely belongs to a developed stage of that culture. The later Thule culture produced the bulk of the artifacts although there is also a good representation from the 19th- and early-20th-century Netsilik occupations of the region. The 19th-century artifacts are of special historic interest, having come from a grave at Thom Bay that surely contained Tuluahiu, the Netsilik hunter who was

fitted with a wooden leg aboard Captain John Ross's *Victory* in 1830.

In his laconic conclusions VanStone shows an alert sense of problem. Comparing the 53 Netsilik artifact types of the Learmonth collection with Thule culture forms, he finds 36 to have close relationship with Thule prototypes and three others to be derived from them. This leads to the highly significant conclusion that "... it does not seem to be an overstatement to say that Netsilik Eskimo implement culture is a logical development from the earlier ancestral period.", that is, from Thule culture. Although this disagrees with Mathiassen's original view on the matter, VanStone shows a commendable appreciation of Mathiassen's reasoning and agrees with him that Thule culture stands as a distinct entity.

Perhaps VanStone has understated the case for Thule-Netsilik continuity. First, more than three of his 17 "distinctively Netsilik" types appear to my eye as developments from Thule prototypes and second, in restricting his comparison to artifact types from the Learmonth collection VanStone has not outlined similarities between the two in languages, economy, housing forms, and other aspects of culture. The second paper in the publication treats of the racial similarities. Reasons for the Thule-Netsilik shift are understandably not discussed; little additional information or thought have been offered on the Thule-modern Central Eskimo transition in the past 30 years. As VanStone's closing sentences note, this newer view of Thule-Netsilik continuity demands a reanalysis of the larger problem of Thule-modern Central Eskimo relationship for it strongly hints that the Canadian Central Eskimos are the direct cultural and biological descendants of the Thule people. A few rash students, including the reviewer, hold that as a belief, lacking the data and study to call it more.

Turning the coin, this study also challenges the Eschato-Eskimo hypothesis in which the modern Central Eskimos, including the Netsilik, are construed as being descended from people who re-

cently migrated from the Barren Lands to the coast and who displaced the old Thule population as a result. The migration concept has been badly overworked in traditional Eskimology as a review of the older and current literature reveals. Although a sturdy, eager dog, the migration idea could not pull the full sled load of Eskimo prehistory; those other conceptual brutes, diffusion, cultural continuity, regional variation, etc., have only recently begun to haul their fair share. Therefore VanStone's study bears general significance in contributing to and reflecting this change in the nature of interpretations of arctic archaeology.

It is remarkable that these new pertinent data and their interpretations, the stimulating hypothesis they engender, and the general implications of a shifting use of concepts in Eskimo prehistory require only 63 pages. For all that and a pleasing form of presentation arctic archaeology is happily indebted to Mr. Learmonth, Dr. VanStone, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

WILLIAM E. TAYLOR, JR.*

The authors have presented us with a painstaking morphological and metrical analysis of 13 skulls and 3 partial post-cranial skeletons. Six of these skulls belong to the Thule culture that, when added to those of Naujan (19), Arctic Bay (1), and Battle Rock (2), bring the Thule census up to 28, which is not very large compared with the sample sizes of Ipiutak and Birnirk.

The conclusions are that all the skeletons show a high degree of homogeneity, exhibiting such typical Eskimo cranio-facial features as long, high crania, flat faces, prominent zygomatic arches, and pinched nasal bones.

L. OSCHINSKY*

ESKIMO CHILDHOOD AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. Nuniwak Biographies and Genealogies. By MARGARET LANTIS. The American Ethnological Society. Seattle: University

*Human History Branch
National Museum of Canada