

**Anthropology of the North:
Translations from Russian Sources No. 2**

The second volume of this series, *STUDIES IN SIBERIAN ETHNOGENESIS*, a collection of 17 papers by various Rus-

sian authors, vii + 313 pages, 7 maps, 5 text figures, 4 plates, has appeared. The volume can be obtained at the price of \$3.50 from the University of Toronto Press Toronto 5, Ont., Canada.

Review

THIS GREAT AND WIDE SEA. An Introduction to Oceanography and Marine Biology. By R. E. COKER. New York: Harper & Brothers. Harper Torchbooks. The Science Library. 1962. 8 x 5¼ inches, paper. xv + 325 pages, maps, text figures, plates. \$2.25.

The study of the oceans is moving so fast that most books published on general oceanography rapidly become out of date. The present work of R. E. Coker, first published in 1947 and now reissued in a paperback edition, is no exception. It is nevertheless worth reading, at least for the non-scientific reader; it treats general matters in a general way and does not go into details.

Reviewing for "Arctic", one should look for the polar interest, and here the reader, scientific or not, will be disappointed, sometimes misled. We are told, for instance, that the waters of the Arctic Ocean, as a whole, "are low in salinity, less than 30" (parts per thousand). This could refer only to the uppermost of the surface layers. The only reference to the entrance of Atlantic water into the Arctic Sea is made by three arrows on a map, labelled "Norwegian Current". We are informed that when arctic water meets Atlantic water the former sinks below the latter by virtue of its lower temperature, whereas in point of fact the reverse occurs at the most important front of all, between Greenland and Spitsbergen, by virtue of the higher salinity of the Atlantic water. The Bering Strait current is not discussed at all in the text, but is shown on a map to be flowing wholly southward, instead of almost wholly northward as it should be. On the same

map the highly significant West Greenland Current is not shown, and there is one map that marks most of the Arctic Sea north of Eastern Siberia, Alaska and Canada as "unexplored", which should go down well with North Americans and Russians alike.

There seems little point in reprinting a book in 1962 on this subject without altering the text to include some at least, of the impressive recent oceanographic advances. The mid-oceanic ridges are largely ignored, for example, and there is no mention of the discovery of the Cromwell Countercurrent in the equatorial eastern Pacific. The demonstration that the little Copepod, *Calanus finmarchicus*, without doubt the most prominent and most investigated single organism in the sea, has been shown to be two quite separate species, a truly shattering discovery, is not mentioned. The general problem of productivity, and the special question of primary production, is given scant treatment, and the absence of certain key words in the index (and in the text) is striking; words such as "productivity", "stability", "Coriolis," "geostrophic".

This criticism is perhaps too searching. As an introduction to marine science, for the elementary student or the "interested layman", "This Great and Wide Sea" serves well. The most intelligent layman, however, and the continuing student, may be a little put out, on further investigation, by its incompleteness and by out-of-date misstatements of fact. Two fish in the frontispiece are printed upside-down.

M. J. DUNBAR