

few questions left unanswered regarding the precise objectives, methods, and results; even the usual reviewer's task of evaluating the contribution is made largely superfluous by the author's own critical assessments and suggestions for future research.

The illustrations deal chiefly with landform types, but together with those appearing in previous publications from the same project, they provide an excellent pictorial record of the information. The work is pleasingly printed and bound, and only one small printing error could be detected.

J. C. RITCHIE

WONDERS OF THE ARCTIC

By JACQUELYN BERRILL. *New York: Dodd, Mead. 1959. 9¼ x 7 inches, 94 pages, illustrated. \$2.25*

Mrs. Berrill's book "Wonders of the Arctic" is written for a youthful audience (8-12 years). It opens with a general description of the arctic region and its seasonal changes. Then a chapter is devoted each to caribou and wolves, arctic foxes, lemmings, tundra hares, arctic birds, musk-oxen, polar bears, walrus, seals, and whales, giving a succinct account of their daily and family lives. A chapter on exploration, from Pytheas to the *Nautilus*, complete the book. Eskimos, Lapps, and other native peoples are only referred to in passing.

Mrs. Berrill's style is clear and simple. Unfortunately, on occasion she gets carried away (e.g. p. 63, "This is a bear [the polar bear] that never sees a plant in all its life . . ."); some inconsistencies have been allowed to creep in (e.g. p. 77, "Ice islands move through the ice pack in a counterclockwise direction"; p. 92, they are "traveling clockwise about the pole"); and not a few errors (e.g. p. 28, the Barren Grounds and the Tundra are considered the same; p. 36, ". . . and when the little fellows [lemmings] do venture out in the open, there is always a falcon, buzzard, owl, or skua gull ready to snatch them"; p. 42, ". . . the Eskimos, the people of the far North, kill hares

for food and use their snow-white, furry skins to cover the sails of their boats so they can get closer to seals resting on the ice . . ."; p. 48, ". . . when the snow melts . . . there is simply no place for the water to go—so it becomes a bog"). Furthermore, although the Arctic Ocean has been referred to as a "mediterranean sea", it is open to debate whether it can be called "land-locked". On page 89 the impression is given that Alexander MacKenzie and Sir John Franklin were in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company.

"Wonders of the Arctic" is handsomely illustrated with black and white pen-and-ink drawings. These have not been drawn from life, but are nonetheless pleasing. An adequate index is included. The volume is bound in a special reinforced library binding to withstand moisture and dirt, the pages have been strongly stitched to prevent them from coming out, and the cover has been reinforced so that it cannot be readily broken when bent, and will not come loose from the book—all admirable qualities for a children's book.

NORA CORLEY

THE WORLD OF THE ARCTIC

By FRANCES C. SMITH. *Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott Co.; Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co. 1960. 8¼ x 6 inches, 126 pages, 2 sketch maps, 16 illustrations. \$3.50 in Canada.*

This slim volume is one of the latest in the "Portraits of the Nations" series, which attempt "to give young people compressed, authoritative and interesting profiles of the land, history, geography, and life" of various countries. "The World of the Arctic" is a slight departure from the others in that it discusses a geographical region rather than a political entity.

The reader is introduced to the region in a general outline, thence taken through three chapters concerning the history of discovery and exploration, followed by five chapters on Alaska, Canada's Western Arctic, the Arctic Archipelago, Greenland, and the Soviet