

## REVIEWS

### THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR.

By WALTER SULLIVAN. *Published in: International Conciliation No. 521, January 1959, pp. 259-336. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 7¾ x 5½ inches. New York: Columbia University Press. 25¢.*

The purpose of *International Conciliation* is to present to its readers factual statements and analyses of problems in the field of international organization. Each issue is devoted to a single topic, and is written by a specialist in that field. It is published five times a year by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The January (1959) issue is devoted, not to the scientific accomplishments of the IGY, but rather to the story of the IGY from the point of view of the historian.

The author, Walter Sullivan, was IGY reporter for *The New York Times*, which assigned him as a full-time reporter to the year. Mr. Sullivan visited many of the IGY Stations, among them the McCall Glacier Station in Alaska, run for the U.S. Program by the Arctic Institute. He knows the subject from the earliest inception, and has presented an account of the IGY from the forerunners of the year in the nineteenth century, through the Polar Years up to the preparation of the IGY. He explains the administration of the IGY, the basic policies, and the case of Chinese participation — the only exception to the general "triumph of science over politics". The publication ends with a chapter on "legacy of the IGY", where the author discusses some of the difficulties experienced in a meeting on common ground of so many countries. In spite of these difficulties, as an experiment in scientific co-operation across all political boundaries, the IGY was highly successful.

This publication will be most illuminating for the scientist who may only

vaguely know the background of the IGY, and for those who realize that a knowledge of international relations is vital for their work.

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### SEALS, SEA LIONS, AND WALRUSES. A REVIEW OF THE PINNIPEDIA.

By VICTOR B. SCHEFFER. *Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1958. London: Oxford University Press. 9¼ x 6¼ inches, x + 179 pages, 32 plates, 15 text figures, 3 tables. \$5.00.*

The last comprehensive review of the Pinnipedia appeared in 1880. The present work, by one of the world's foremost authorities on marine mammals, will doubtless be warmly welcomed by mamalogists everywhere. International interest in pinnipeds and their conservation has increased greatly in recent years, and there is a need, as pointed out by the author, for international agreement on names of the various groups and degrees of isolation of populations.

The book is compact, and although the binding could have been stronger, the publishers are to be congratulated on producing a work of this scope at a price that puts it well within reach of students and other interested persons.

The introduction is largely a tabulated summary of the numerical status of 55 known populations of pinnipeds in the world. The first five chapters of the book summarize up-to-date knowledge of the characteristics of pinnipeds (including reproduction, growth, and mortality), the evolution of the order and its families, the evolution of the genera, species, and subspecies, a description of the taxonomic procedure used by the author, and a systematic account by species and subspecies. The final chapter consists of a synoptic key to the genera. There is a