

first book certainly proves that he can write with humour and understanding. Vilhjalmur Stefansson suggests in his Foreword that the next book by Robert Jack could perhaps be one contrasting Icelanders at home in their North Atlantic republic with the Icelandic pioneers on the prairies of Canada. Let us hope that the author will comply.

SVENN ORVIG

AYORAMA

By RAYMOND DE COCCOLA and PAUL KING with illustrations by James Houston. *Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1955, 9 x 6 inches; vii + 316 pages; illustrations. \$4.00.*

The Copper Eskimo and the peoples to the east of them around Queen Maud Sea, had virtually no contact with European culture until early in the twentieth century, when the first independent traders appeared in the region. Since that time there have been few cultural changes until the last 15 years; during this period, the Copper Eskimo like all Canadian Eskimo have experienced great difficulties. To appreciate the cultural problems and the difficulties of administration, it is essential that the people in the south have objective accounts of the Eskimo and their way of life. However, few white people know the Eskimo well enough to give satisfactory accounts.

Father Coccola travelled as a missionary for 12 years with the Eskimo living around Coronation Gulf, Queen Maud Sea and particularly in Bathurst Inlet. In 'Ayorama', Eskimo for "it can't be helped", he has written, in collaboration with Paul King, a sensitive account of a people he knows intimately. The picture he draws is of Eskimo hardly affected by European civilization. Although they use a rifle and visit the trading store two or three times a year with their fox pelts, they essentially retain their old customs. The author says little about the impact of the trading companies, the missions and his own work, and the federal government, and only describes by inference the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted

Police. The story that emerges is, however, one that has already been written many times for other Eskimo groups—the continuing threat of starvation, infanticide, polygamy, wife sharing, shamanism, and above all murder and manslaughter. The Copper Eskimo have always held life cheaply and the author mentions twenty-five cases of death where killings were suspected. Although at first this seems a large number for a population of less than 500, Rasmussen tells a similar story and Father Coccola does not, in fact, mention all the murders that have occurred in this century in Bathurst Inlet. From his account, one might believe that the killings are still occurring, but many of his stories are from the past and have been reported by the police. The author retells the story of the Radford and Street murders in 1912 but unfortunately his informant told him little that was not already generally known.

'Ayorama' is attractively presented with sketches by James Houston. It is doubtful if this book will have great value as an anthropological document because there are alterations in the factual accounts which limit their usefulness, but it makes a fine story and shows the Eskimo in a sympathetic light. When Father Coccola wrote the book it was already a story of the past, and the last year has brought even greater changes.

J. BRIAN BIRD

GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS

By ANDREW TAYLOR. *Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1955. 9½ x 6½ inches; vii + 172 pages; plates, maps. (Canada. Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Geographical Branch. Memoir 3). \$1.00.*

Mr. Taylor's purpose, as stated in the introduction to this memoir, is to "summarize the geographical discovery and exploration of the Queen Elizabeth Islands as an introduction and aid to other investigations in the area." This he has set about with great thoroughness and