

in guiding hands like his the Eskimo has the best of opportunities.

Perhaps it is because he is back at work on Baffin Island that a few mistakes occur in his text; most of them are due to weak or alien proof-reading. Resolute Bay is described in very contrary directions from Pend Inlet, and as a Scot I cannot allow him to have Murdock for Murdoch unchallenged.

A well selected group of photographs, an index, and end paper maps round out this admirable volume. P. D. BAIRD

### ARCTIC WILDERNESS

By ROBERT MARSHALL. Edited with an Introduction by George Marshall. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1956.  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  inches; xxvi + 169 pages; illustrations; maps. \$3.75.

Robert Marshall died 17 years ago at the age of 38. He left an impressive record of achievement including several publications, of which 'Arctic Village', published in 1933, is the best known. 'Arctic Wilderness', edited and introduced by George Marshall, is compiled from his brother's letters and notes and is in many ways supplementary to 'Arctic Village'. The earlier book deals intimately with the life of inhabitants of Wiseman, Alaska, whereas 'Arctic Wilderness' is the story of Bob Marshall's trips into a little known section of the Brooks Range. These extensive travels by foot, boat, and dogsled, are well documented and the topography of the region is enthusiastically described in a joyous and almost poetic style.

A map prepared in the field by Marshall and first published in 1934, is republished in 'Arctic Wilderness' with some revisions based on later expeditions. In 1934, this map was an important contribution to the knowledge of the geography of the northern Koyukuk region.

Marshall's wilderness remains today essentially as he saw it, even though the Alaskan Arctic has been a beehive of activity for the past 10 years. An extensive exploration project north of the Brooks Range at one time included plans for a pipeline across the mountains

through the heart of his wilderness. Military and other governmental mapping activities in the Brooks Range and to the north have eliminated almost every blank spot from the map. The region Marshall so laboriously traversed and mapped was remapped during the war from aerial photographs, and is now being mapped again in greater detail with the use of helicopters and aerial photographs. The Arctic Divide, which was one of Marshall's goals, has been reached and crossed at four localities by ground motor vehicles, and air travel across the wilderness is now on a regular schedule. All this has had, however, little effect on the Koyukuk region; many of the "majestic summits", "knife-edge ridges", "snow-covered limestone crags", "sheer falls", and "Yosemite-like valleys" have not been visited by a human being since Bob Marshall left.

Marshall also collected data on tree growth at the northern timber line. Although the data are not presented, the introduction states that his observations "seem to substantiate his theory that the northern timber line in Alaska is not the result of unfavorable environment for tree growth, but simply of the fact that there has not been time since the last ice sheet receded for the forest to migrate further north."

'Arctic Wilderness' provides an insight to the author's character and his views on a great variety of subjects, including the value of physical exploration. Although Marshall recognized the similarity of mental adventure and physical adventure, his expeditions recorded in this book were motivated (in his own words) by "the thrill of adventure" and "the fact that exploration [physical] is perhaps the greatest aesthetic experience a human being can know. My own belief, which I realize the majority do not share, is that most exploration today is not of material value to the human race in general but is of immense value to the person who does it. Furthermore, I feel that one of the great values of explorations is in pitting oneself without the aid of machinery against unknown nature."

'Arctic Wilderness' is an interesting, refreshing, and enjoyable book, especially to those readers who, like Bob Marshall, thrill at "simply the joy of triumphing over something which is difficult to accomplish" and "setting foot where no human being has ever trod before."

GEORGE GRYC

**NORTHERN TREASURY.  
SELECTIONS FROM THE BEAVER**

Edited by CLIFFORD WILSON. *Toronto: T. Nelson and Sons, 1955. 8½ x 5½ inches; viii + 238 pages; plates; maps. \$3.50.*

Most readers of *Arctic* are probably quite familiar with the magazine *The Beaver*, published by the Hudson's Bay Company, and will, therefore, welcome this anthology of favourite articles. The editor of *The Beaver*, Clifford Wilson, has selected a cross-section of articles from as far back as 1933, and has tried to retain the variety usually found in

each issue. Those who do not possess the early issues of *The Beaver* will find this compilation interesting and entertaining.

Readers will be amused again by the light comedy of Stephen Leacock, James McCook, and Eric Nicol; they can read of arctic adventure as told by Martin Bovey, Captain Mack, and Jimmy Bell. There is early history in the accounts of Douglas Mackay, R. C. Wallace, and Mrs. Hewlett; and not forgotten are the people of the north—the Indian and Eskimo, as described by Alfred Copland, Axel Neilsen, and Bishop Marsh.

A total of twenty-four articles has been assembled in this volume, for which a short introduction was written by Leonard Brockington. The general reader will find the book entertaining, and the arctic specialist will find relaxation in the easy writing concerning his favourite region, the Northland.

J. LEWIS ROBINSON

## INSTITUTE NEWS

### Applications for the position of Executive Director

The Board of Governors invites applications for the post of Executive Director of the Arctic Institute, which position has been held by Mr. T. H. Manning on a part-time, temporary basis for the past year and a half. Mr. Manning wishes to relinquish this position not later than October 31. The new appointment will be on a full-time basis at a salary commensurate with the applicant's qualifications. The Executive Director will be required to live in eastern Canada.

Applications should be addressed to the Director of the Montreal Office.

### 'Arctic bibliography', Volume 6

The sixth volume of 'Arctic bibliography' was published by the U.S. Government Printing Office in April 1956. Like the preceding five volumes

it was edited by Miss Marie Tremaine, and prepared by the Arctic Institute for the U.S. Department of Defense. A Directing Committee, of which Dr. Henry B. Collins is the chairman, exercised general supervision.

Volume 6 lists and describes the contents of 5,285 English and foreign language publications in all fields of science relating to the arctic and subarctic regions of America and Eurasia. Subjects emphasized are geology and mineral resources; geography; zoology; medicine and physiology, especially the effects of low temperatures; engineering (navigation, aeronautics, construction, transportation); agriculture and forestry; meteorology; oceanography; anthropology and sociology; and exploration, especially Russian expansion in the north Pacific. Language coverage is similar to the earlier volumes, 3,225 of the publications listed are in English, 1,215 in Russian,