

CLIMATE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

By C. E. P. BROOKS. *New York: Philosophical Library, 1951. 8½ x 5½ inches; 314 pages; sketch-maps and diagrams. \$4.75.*

The author of this book is best known for his outstanding work on the theory of climatic change. For many years he was head of the Climatological Division of the British Meteorological Service, and it was this experience that prompted his new book. It deals with the economic, physiological, and psychological effects of climate on the everyday life of western man. In 1946 Dr. Brooks gave a paper on the deterioration of materials under exposure to climate at the Royal Meteorological Society in London. He was overwhelmed by requests for more information, and so decided to condense his encyclopaedic knowledge of applied climatology into book form.

He begins by a discussion of "living with the climate", which is a broad and generalized account of world climates and their effect, mostly inimical, on man and his capital equipment. There is a long, though hardly exhaustive, study of the siting and design of houses and factories in relation to climate. The classification of climates used is of an odd kind, being in part typically geographical (e.g., Mediterranean climates) and in part based on hazard ("Deterioration" climates, Typhoon and Hurricane climates). The treatment of the Arctic climates is inadequate: it is quite clear that Dr. Brooks is writing mainly about the tundra, yet on Fig. 1 he takes in all of Alaska, including the entire Pacific coast, the forested Labrador plateau and many forested areas in Siberia within this division. All these areas have climatic extremes and norms quite unlike those of the true Arctic. The confusion arises from the adoption of the poleward limit of agriculture as the boundary.

Dr. Brooks then proceeds to an interesting account of climate as an enemy, dealing with pollution, the deterioration of materials, and climatic accidents, the lattermost comprising the effect of floods, gales, storms, and other so-called acts of God. He then gives a review of climatic control, meaning by this sug-

gestive term the efforts made by man to alter his environment. Heating, lighting, and air-conditioning come in for most attention, but rain-making and hail-control are also discussed.

As a guide to British civil servants and business men this book will be quite useful. For a North American public, and especially one concerned with the cold environments, it is less to the point. In Dr. Brooks' own words (on page 18), ". . . we eliminate those parts of the world which have little interest for our purposes: (i) Polar regions and tundras . . .!"

F. K. HARE

THE SITKA DISTRICT

By RALPH BROWNE. *Juneau, Alaska: Alaska Development Board, 1950. 10½ x 8½ inches; 81 pages; tables; mimeo.*

THE CORDOVA DISTRICT

By RALPH BROWNE. *Juneau, Alaska: Alaska Development Board, 1951. 10½ x 8½ inches; 81 pages; tables; mimeo.*

In 1945 the Alaskan Legislature created the Alaska Development Board, as a part of the Governor's staff, to encourage interest and development in the Territory. Under the direction of George Sundborg and his assistant Ralph Browne the Board has published several pamphlets and reports, produced the excellent Machetanz film, and encouraged new interest in Alaska both Inside and Outside. The Sitka and Cordova reports are the beginning of a series of "comprehensive surveys of business and industrial opportunities" in small parts of the Territory. The series was begun in these two cities because of the cooperation offered by their local Chambers of Commerce.

The two reports cover the same ground, with chapters on general information (e.g. location, climate), the city (e.g. housing, health), mining, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, water, transportation, and recreation. The style of writing is generally direct and simple and it is refreshing to note the constant references to relationships of the Territory and other parts of the world. However, by far the strongest points of the