

### 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

reports are the comments on information required and on recommendations for future investigations. Social scientists can profit greatly by noting the topics and problems for research which are highlighted.

As promotional documents the reports serve a useful purpose. This is to interest potential businessmen, investors, and settlers in Alaskan enterprises. It is clear that the reports are not designed to be scientific documents. Sources of data generally are not indicated, few basic references (other than U.S. Geological Survey Bulletins) are listed, and no maps are included. There is great variation in degree of detail in the descriptions, ranging from inadequate comments on climate to detailed observations on mountain climbing and individual power and mining sites. Somewhat disturbing are the inclusions of unnecessary (for the declared objective of each report) sections on such things as the past restrictions of government on coal and oil leasing (Cordova report, p. 67) and the repeal of section 27 of the Jones Act (Sitka report, p. 58). The intended audience appears to vary between potential businessmen, Cordovan and Sitkan residents, United States citizens, and U.S. congressmen—a confusing, if not too diverse, range. It is surprising, too, that analyses of items like costs of living, labour, and materials are omitted—topics of paramount interest to businessmen and analysts alike.

The optimistic attitude of the reports is basic to promotional publications. Yet, the constant optimism, in spite of any noted difficulty (and those not noted), raises the question of possible danger from overselling. KIRK H. STONE

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

*Ottawa: Geographical Branch, Dept. Mines and Technical Surveys, 1951. Canadian Geography Information Series No. 2. 9 x 6 inches; xiii + 118 pages; sketch-maps, folding maps, and illustrations. 50 cents.*

It is a useful step forward to have a single short publication on the geography

of the Canadian Arctic, replacing the now considerably out-of-date booklets on specific divisions. These earlier ones however, did have some literary merit. The various chapters of the present publication give a broad picture of conditions in the region, but the treatment of subjects is rather uneven. The topographical section is full and good; the chapter on settlement is peculiar in singling out only seven settlements for detailed treatment, one of which is now abandoned.

Perhaps in the chapter on climate not sufficient attention is paid to the varying pressure pattern which so influences the vital arctic factor of wind, and although the data are still very recent, I feel that some more information from the far northern weather stations could well have been included, e.g. the very low mean winter temperatures and precipitation of Eureka which establish several Canadian "records".

In the section on wildlife, the importance of the two seals which can be hunted through the ice in the winter, as opposed to the remainder of the marine mammals which appear to migrate to open water, should have been brought out. One of the most surprising statements in the book is that "[walrus] hide is often used for bed robes" (p. 42). I can imagine nothing more uncomfortable.

With regard to the history of exploration, it is extremely difficult to give any brief account of the work accomplished since the First World War, but in view of the considerable detail given for the earlier history, I think some of the trends of modern exploration and the outstanding names should have been given.

The booklet is well filled with maps, but since these were specially drawn in 1951, they could perhaps have been a little freer from errors, e.g. the location of ice caps on the geology map opposite page 2, an error in Parry's 1824 expedition, and considerable confusion between Greely, Nares, and Peary in the maps on exploration. Reproduced in all the maps is one major error: Stefansson Island is not a severed portion of the northeast