

rators, the ship's doctor, and the 10-man crew of the *Sachsen*. None of them were professional soldiers and only the commander had had previous arctic experience.

The early part of the winter was uneventful and the experience of the party differed in few respects from that of similar expeditions who have wintered in the Arctic under comparable circumstances; the last chapters of the narrative, on the other hand, where the story of the discovery and the subsequent encounter, first with the Danish East Greenland Patrol and later with the United States bombers is told, is dramatic and full of human interest. In this encounter the Danes had the advantage of being quite at home in this vast uninhabited and inhospitable land; they were experienced hunters and travellers, but without training and experience for the new role into which circumstances had forced them which, at any moment, might require them to hunt or even kill fellow human beings instead of seal or polar bear. The Germans, too, were amateur soldiers and had obviously hoped to remain undetected; although much better armed than the Danes, they must have spent the winter in constant fear of detection and surprise attack.

In March 1943 a 3-man sledge detachment of the Danish Patrol returning from a routine patrol of the coast, discovered evidence in a hunting camp at Germania Havn, a few miles south of Hansa Bugt, of a nearby German weather station. Unknown to the Danes a 2-man German hunting party saw the patrol and, under cover of darkness, returned to their base to give the alarm. Several German parties at once set out to capture the patrol. The Danes, however, managed to escape but in doing so had to abandon their three dog teams and travelling gear. Covering the 60-mile distance on foot, and without food and sleeping bags, they reached Eskimonæs and reported their discovery. Meanwhile the Germans, who were quick to take advantage of the dog teams of which they had so unexpectedly come into possession, set out in force to capture

and destroy the Danish stations before the alarm could be given. In this they failed, but on the way they ambushed another Danish sledge detachment. One Dane was killed and the remaining two were captured together with their dogs. Not long after one Dane managed to escape and the other, while the main force of the Germans were enroute to Ella Ø, disarmed and captured the German commander, Hermann Ritter, who had stayed behind to guard the prisoner. The Dane, with his, perhaps, not unwilling prisoner, travelling by a different route, reached Scoresbysund.

On May 25 four American bombers from Iceland, under the command of Colonel Bernt Balchen, partly destroyed the German station but apparently failed to see the camouflaged *Sachsen*. On June 17, after scuttling their ship, the remainder of the Germans who had suffered no casualties in the bombing, were evacuated from Sabine Ø by a German "Condor" to Norway. The ship's doctor, who was out of the camp at the time, was subsequently found by a party from the *Northland* on July 23.

A. E. PORSILD

TERRE STÉRILE

By JEAN MICHÉA. *Paris: Bloud et Gay, 1949. 7½ x 5½ inches; 221 pages; illustrations, diagrams, and sketch-maps.*

INUK: au dos de la terre!

By ROGER BULLIARD, o.m.i. *Paris: Editions Saint-Germain, 1949. 8 x 5½ inches; 358 pages; illustrations, sketch-map, and folding map.*

APOUTSIK: le petit flocon de neige.

By PAUL-ÉMILE VICTOR. *Paris: Flammarion (Les albums du Père Castor), 1948. 8 x 10 inches; 32 pages; illustrations. 300 fr.*

Arctic literature has been recently enriched by three interesting books in French which should appeal to all those concerned with northern problems. These books are moreover highly recommended for students of geography and sociology in English-speaking universities who wish to practice French without making it an ordeal.

Jean Michéa is an ethnologist who spent a year and a half among the Caribou Eskimo in the Baker Lake district. Owing to a printer's error, the sub-title of the book reads "Six mois chez les Esquimaux Caribous" instead of "Dix-huit mois". His book, which is in diary form, describes the life of the Caribou Eskimo during the four seasons. The daily routine of the Caribou hunters is described in minute detail and in a simple and graceful style. The book is illustrated with photographs and drawings by the author.

Following the current French practice, Michéa translates *Caribou Eskimo* by *Esquimaux caribous* instead of *Esquimaux du Caribou*. The latter, in my opinion, is the correct form. Concerning the origin of the syllabic Eskimo used by the Eskimo, he mentions that it was invented by the Moravian missionaries of the Labrador coast, who taught it to the Naskapi Indians and to the local Eskimo. In fact, the Naskapi, who are in touch with the north shore of the St. Lawrence, do not use this alphabet. Moreover, I have been led to believe that the alphabet was invented by the Rev. James Evans (1810-46), an Anglican missionary, and was first used in 1841, at Norway House, Manitoba, by the Cree Indians. In spite of such minor differences in interpretation, Michéa's book remains a most fascinating one and is recommended to those in search of a few hours of interesting French reading.

For the same reason, Father Buliard's book should find its way into the libraries of those interested in the Arctic. Father Roger Buliard (there are three Oblate Fathers in the same family, all well known in arctic circles) lived among the Copper Eskimo for fifteen years. When writing his book, he was posted on Victoria Island. The book, which includes pages extracted from the author's diary, describes *Inuk* (singular of *inuit*) the man, the real man: naturally the Eskimo himself. The seasons, the climate, the conditions of sea and land travel are also discussed. The life and character of the Eskimo, together with many minute details give a vivid sense

of reality to the narrative. There is much poetry in the description of the changing sky, of northern lights, blizzards, and the pack ice.

The psychology of the Eskimo is analysed in detail. No doubt Father Buliard knows them, but we may perhaps differ with him when he writes that "les Esquimaux n'avaient plus de religion" (p. 82). This is not the impression one gathers from his own description. The Eskimo are animists. They practice shamanism, but no hierarchized religion. This may be what Father Buliard means by an absence of religion. As with all animists, religion remains purely a personal affair.

The author manifests an evident sympathy for his Eskimo. Yet many of his readers, including the reviewer, will perhaps be astonished at the harshness of some of his observations. He is very severe when he insists upon so-called specific deficiencies in the Eskimo which make them amoral individuals, traitors, murderers in fact or in intent.

Ever since Father Buliard left the Seminary he has lived among Eskimo. He knows them well but his comparison suffers because he has lost touch with the recent and unwholesome progress of humanity. Those living in the midst of our own civilization, those reading our newspapers, those who have suffered invasions, or those who have witnessed the bitter "settling of accounts" have a right to question whether the Eskimo are so different from the "civilized" white race.

Contrary to the present tendency among French ethnologists Father Buliard uses the feminine form *esquimaude*, a practice I follow.

Apoutsiak is a little Eskimo boy living in Angmagssalik, where Victor made an ethnological survey in 1934-5. The book consists of a collection of the author's drawings accompanied by a short and simple narrative. The drawings are of artistic quality. Not only do they express good taste, but all details are correctly portrayed. I do not know of any other book which can give children

a more accurate view of the life of the Greenland Eskimo. According to some psychologists my mental age is slightly over twelve, nevertheless I derived great pleasure from Victor's book. Get it for the children and you will doubtless be the first to read it yourself.

JACQUES ROUSSEAU

**A GERMAN AND ENGLISH
GLOSSARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL
TERMS**

By ERIC FISCHER AND FRANCIS ELLIOTT.
New York: American Geographical Society, 1950. (Univ. Press, Cambridge, Mass.). Amer. Geogr. Soc. Library Series, No. 5. 8½ x 5½ inches; vii + 112 pages. \$3.00.

This little book should do much towards clarification of terms and will help greatly in reading German geographical literature. No dictionary can take the place of knowing a foreign language, but such knowledge rarely includes familiarity with technical terms. With

the present trend towards specialization in all fields general dictionaries are of limited use. Students almost invariably pick the wrong meaning in a choice of several, and general lexica cannot keep up with the rapid development of the sciences. All sciences require good technical dictionaries and the present one might well serve as a model of format, make-up, and appearance, as well as content.

There are about 3,000 German terms in 60 pages of German-English and about 2,500 English terms in 50 pages of German-English translations. Many terms are not strictly geographical but they are used in geographical literature and fortunately there are no sharp boundaries between fields of work.

The glossary is well printed and substantially bound and will stand up to heavy use. The authors and the American Geographical Society are to be congratulated upon the appearance of this excellent aid in scientific work.

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