

FUNDAMENTALS OF ARCTIC AND COLD WEATHER MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

By H. B. EISBERG and J. E. OWENS. Washington, D.C.: Research Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, U.S. Navy Dept., 1949. 9 x 5½ inches; vii + 204 pages; diagrams and illustrations.

Commander Eisberg and Lieut. Owens of the U.S. Navy, are to be congratulated on gathering so much useful information together. In fact their book covers much more than the title would suggest, and attempts to provide a general grounding in arctic matters, with the emphasis on medical and dental considerations. The result is that a certain amount of irrelevant detail is included.

A few minor points may be criticized though these do not seriously detract from the book in any way. The material is sometimes rather scattered, which makes reference difficult, particularly as there is no index. For instance, foods, which are covered on p. 13 and following, are mentioned again in part on p. 153-4. On p. 153, it is stated, without apparent qualification, that a large amount of food is available in the Arctic. The advantages of plants for survival purposes are stressed, fifty pages being devoted to arctic flora, whereas no reference appears to be made to the greater advantages of hunting for sur-

vival. The survivor who has no gun might be cheered to know the ease with which ptarmigan can be secured.

A statement should have been included on p. 74, that the real dangers of carbon monoxide in tents and other closed spaces when cooking with gasoline or naphtha stoves comes from placing pots over the flame. Carbon monoxide dangers are much less with a bare flame.

On p. 81 it is stated that diffusion of water vapour through clothing is undesirable. In general this diffusion is desirable providing that air permeability of the fabrics is sufficiently reduced.

The German work on hypothermia with human subjects is accurately described, but the unreliable character of the investigator might have been mentioned before adopting his conclusions and applying them as a general rule.

Attention could be drawn to a number of other small points, such as the assumption on p. 138 that ice crystals are the cause of opacity in frostbitten tissues, which is without justification, and the careless handling of the R.C.M.P. on pages 10 and 115. But the book as a whole is gratifyingly complete. Instruction on first aid care for survivors while awaiting rescue, would have been valuable in a book of this type, and could be added to a second edition.

M.G.W.

INSTITUTE NEWS

Award of Arctic Institute grants

The following have been awarded grants by the Arctic Institute for field work in the 1950 season:

BAIRD, PATRICK DOUGLAS, Montreal Office of the Arctic Institute, Quebec, Canada.

Joint scientific expedition to study the ice cap inland from Clyde River, east Baffin Island, and the permafrost, zoology, botany, geology, and geomorphology of the surrounding district and coastal mountains.

BENSON, LYMAN DAVID, Pomona College, Claremont, California, U.S.A.

Field population studies of *Ranunculus* species occurring in northern Alaska.

BUSS, IRVEN O., State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, U.S.A.

Studies of territory, breeding behaviour, range requirement and breeding density of the Upland Plover at the northern extremity of its range.

CADE, TOMMY J., University of Alaska, College, Alaska.

A complete survey of the avifauna of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, particularly of the feeding and nesting habits, and the ecological associations of the various species.

CARPENTER, EDMUND SNOW, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Archaeological, geological and ethnological investigations at Southampton Island.