

men who through their work and achievement rose, in their own lifetimes, to become internationally known and universally acclaimed within their chosen fields. At home they were deeply loved and nationally worshipped public heroes.

Both Nansen and Rasmussen possessed

those mystic characteristics which make men go seeking "the wilderness stone" and which a thousand years ago produced the Vikings. It seems fitting and natural that those two great men should have sprung from the same root.

A. E. PORSILD.

GABA,

DEN LILLE GRÖNLAENDER.

Written and illustrated by GITZ-JOHANSEN. Gyldendal, Copenhagen, 1947. 24 pp. Kr. 5.35.

ARNAJARAK.

Text by FREDERIK NIELSEN, illustrations by GITZ-JOHANSEN. Ejnar Munksgaards Forlag, Copenhagen, 1948. 22 pp. Kr. 5.00.

Gaba is the story of a little boy who lives in East Greenland. It is for children between three- and seven-years-old. Although the story is written in Danish, the coloured drawings are so good that it can be understood even if you cannot read the language. One example is when *Gaba* is shown skiing with his friends. There is a picture on one page and opposite it is the story which, when translated, reads: "In the spring *Gaba* ski'd among the hills with his friends." *Gaba* would be a good book for American and Cana-

dian children.

Arnajarak is a Greenlandic girl and the book tells of her adventures when she is driven away from home by her wicked stepmother. She finds a little house belonging to some dwarfs who work in a coal mine among the hills. The story tells of the adventures of the little coal miners and about the animals and birds they meet. It is written in verse in both Greenlandic-Eskimo and Danish and there is a coloured drawing to illustrate each group of verses.

The book is suitable for children between six- and thirteen-years-old. Although the pictures are very interesting and amusing, the story cannot be followed properly unless you can read the verses. Both Frederik Nielsen, who lives in Greenland, and Gitz-Johansen of Copenhagen prepared this book for the children of Greenland without being paid for their work.

MONA LLOYD.

GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE.

By MIRIAM MACMILLAN. Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, 1948. 287 pp. \$4.00.

Why does Commander Donald B. MacMillan make his annual ventures to the northern seas? Why did he take it upon himself to establish and support a school for Eskimo children at Nain, Labrador? What is this "spell of the far North" that seems to get into one's blood and send him back again and again to what many consider a land of desolation?

In *Green Seas and White Ice* Miriam MacMillan gives us a clear and concise answer. She has indeed caught the spirit of her famous husband. She has become a part of his almost legendary ventures—some twenty-seven polar expeditions—and brings to the reader this spirit of adventure and exploration of little known lands.

Many accounts of polar exploration are written in a dry, matter of fact, scientific manner and catch only the interest of the student of exploration. Miriam MacMillan wisely avoids this, and has written her account with wide appeal. It is a personal story of how, as a girl, she watched her hero sail away to the far North and met him on the dock when he returned. They were later married, but "Cap'n Mac" said it was too dangerous to take her North, and besides the crew of the *Bowdoin* would not like to have a woman on board. By her own deliberate design she broke down the traditional barrier of "no women", and after having made six voyages, Miriam is truly an indispensable veteran, not only as an able crew member of the *Bowdoin*, and ship's hostess, too, but also as an author and lecturer. With her the reader meets the friendly Eskimos, inches

through the ice pack, gazes at the great glaciers of Greenland, picks flowers beside a snow bank retreating in the brief Arctic summer, and begins to understand the fascination of the far North, the friendliness and warmth of the northern people, which calls the MacMillans back year after year.

The rich personal interest of her story, written much as she would tell it to a friend, makes the book easy to read, but this is well-balanced with a great deal of information about the northern lands, their people, their history, and the interesting work undertaken by the little *Bowdoin* and its student crew.

One criticism of the book is the omission of the dates on which the expedi-

tions she describes occurred. The only indication as to when these took place is on the last pages where she mentions that the war put a stop to them when the government took the *Bowdoin* and sent her north under Naval command to conduct hydrographic survey work in Greenland waters. This omission does not hamper the reading qualities of the book, but seriously detracts from the historical value of her record of these expeditions and the fund of local and detailed information she has given. The book is nevertheless a valuable addition to arctic literature and will find a place on bookshelves of arctic travel and adventure.

DAVID C. NUTT.

FIVE BOOKS ON THE SOVIET NORTH.

By D. B. SHIMKIN, Russian Research Center, Harvard University.

The Soviet Union has an outstanding reputation for the extent and quality of its researches on the Arctic and Subarctic. Unfortunately, evidence substantiating this reputation has generally been unavailable to North American polar workers. Consequently, it is the purpose of this paper to throw light upon the recent status and current problems of some aspects of Soviet Arctic and Subarctic research by reviewing briefly five representative and significant books. They include: S. P. Suslov: *Fizicheskaya Geografiya SSSR* (Physical Geography of the USSR), Uchpedgiz, Leningrad-Moscow, 1947, pp. 544 + Atlas (VIII Maps); G. D. Rikhter: *Sever Evropeiskoi Chasti SSSR* (The Northern Sector of European USSR), Gosizdgeoelit, Moscow, 1946, pp. 192 + 2 maps; S. D. Lappo: *Spravochnaya Knizhka Polyarnika* (Polar Handbook) Izd. Glavsevmorputi, (Moscow), 1945, pp. 423; N. N. Zubov: *L'dy Arktiki* (Arctic Ices), Izd. Glavsevmorputi, Moscow, 1945, pp. 360; and A. A. Grigoryev: *Subarktika* (The Subarctic), Akademiya Nauk, Moscow-Leningrad, 1946, pp. 171. Although all of these volumes include a wealth of factual data, supported by pertinent tables and bibliographies, the first three may be regarded as being primarily descriptive; the last

two, primarily analytical and theoretical in character.

Suslov's treatise is limited to the Asiatic part of the Soviet Union; nearly half of the book deals with Arctic and Subarctic territories. Thus it provides, in conjunction with Rikhter's monograph on the European North, a basic coverage of the general geographical characteristics, geological history, geomorphology, hydrography, climatology, pedology, and plant and zoo-geography of all of the Soviet North excluding Novaya Zemlya, Franz Josef Land, and the northern half of the Barents Sea. It should be noted that in Suslov's work, as in other publications, information is scantiest in regard to the Bering Sea littoral, particularly the Koryak Range, as well as the Eastern Siberian Plateau lying between the Yenisei and Lena basins.

Suslov's volume maintains an excellent level of presentation, with clearcut discussions of physiographic and ecological interrelations, and with an abundance of illustrative materials. In my opinion, the most brilliant section is the characterization of the peculiarities of the Lena Basin and Northeastern Siberia primarily as functions of the climate, permafrost and the hydrographic regime (pp. 131-133 ff). I should also like to draw attention to the atlas, which reproduces maps previously available only in Volumes I and II of the Great Soviet Atlas (*Bol'shoi Sovietskii Atlas Mira*); furthermore, the