

The author, who joined the firm in 1948, is a great-grandson of Christian Salvesen and a nephew of the late Captain Harold (H.K.) Salvesen, the dominant figure in this book. Sir Gerald Elliot writes from first-hand experience of whaling in the Antarctic, through his association with Harold Salvesen, chairman of the South Georgia Company from 1942 to 1964. The author became one of the firm's directors in the 1950s and retired as chairman of Salvesen's in 1988. He writes largely from a personal standpoint, referring to 'our company' throughout.

The book is nearly 200 pages long, with an outline map of the Antarctic regions and a number of black-and-white plates, depicting whale catchers and factory ships. The approach is chronological, beginning with two chapters covering the years 1907 to 1948, before the author joined Salvesen's. In these he sets the scene, not only briefly describing the origins of the firm, but the history of whaling in the Antarctic, which began early in the twentieth century. He also outlines British and Norwegian government involvement, their whaling laws, the entry of Japan and Germany into Antarctic whaling, the change from shore-based to pelagic whaling, and the establishment of the International Whaling Convention and Commission in 1946, after British regulations to conserve the great whales had been negated since it became possible, with the advent of the stern slip-way for ships to operate on the high seas. In these early chapters, the reader first meets Harold Salvesen, who had served as an officer in the Indian Army and had taken a first-class degree at Oxford. Salvesen spent his first Antarctic summer in 1928/29, coming home 'captivated by whaling and enthusiastic about its prospects,' subsequently directing the business, and combining a 'formidable intellect with a vast appetite for work' (page 27).

The chapters that follow, covering the years 1948–63, form the backbone of the book. Because they cover the period in which the author was active, they have an immediacy, for example, in describing the Norwegian gunners, life at Leith Harbour, whaling methods, and the ships and catchers employed. The role of the International Whaling Commission and its inspectors in endeavouring to bring catch levels down to one consistent with the survival of the whales is brought out, while the role of the Dutch and Russians in pursuing their own goals, regardless of the evident decline of whale stocks, is condemned. Harold Salvesen's forthright opinions and actions thread the whole narrative. A few lines of quotation show him at work. The author accompanied him to the Antarctic, as secretary and bag carrier early in his career:

Bag carrier was no empty title. Harold took with him on his Antarctic visits a large battered leather trunk stuffed with files, a full travelling office. It accompanied us from ship to ship as we passed through the Antarctic and its papers were in constant use. They provided all the administrative back-up for the operation of the three expeditions, *Southern Venturer*, *Southern Harvester*, and Leith Harbour. Included there were crew lists, ship specifications, operating instructions,

notes on new plant, stores, schedules, new projects, supplemented by reams of his own notes, scribbled in pencil on pages torn from loose-leaf pads. Of particular importance were the draft programmes for movement of the tankers from fuel loading ports to and between the Antarctic expeditions. (page 53)

The author calls his book 'a chronicle of the grandeur, decline, and eventual extinction of the Antarctic whaling industry...linked with the fortunes of Christian Salvesen, for half a century one of the leading venturers in Antarctic whaling and closely concerned in the international struggles, eventually fruitless, to preserve the Antarctic whale stocks and save the industry' (page 9). Through his readable, clear, and interesting narrative, he succeeds admirably, and the book is a welcome addition to the history of modern whaling, earlier described so well by Johnsen and Tønnessen (1982). Sir Gerald, however, expresses no pity for the whale, nor concern for the cruelty its capture involved. Salvesen's efforts to conserve the stocks appear to have resulted from a desire to prolong the industry, which was also one of the aims of the Discovery Investigations, but in their case coupled with the lives of the leviathans themselves. (Ann Savours, Little Bridge Place, Bridge, Kent CT4 5LG.)

#### References

- Johnsen, A.O., and J.N. Tønnessen. 1982. *The history of modern whaling*. London: C. Hurst.  
 Vamplew, W. 1975. *Salvesen of Leith*. Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press.

**EXPEDITION MEDICINE.** David Warrell and Sarah Anderson (Editors). 1998. London: Profile Books and The Royal Geographical Society. vii + 292 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-86197-040-4. £17.99.

This book from the Royal Geographical Society is a great improvement over the RGS's *Expedition health and safety: prevention and treatment of medical problems in challenging environments*, even though one of the editors and many of the contributions have remained the same. Not the least of the improvements is the inclusion of relevant photographs and diagrams.

However, one may well question whether, given the plethora of wilderness medicine and outdoor first aid manuals that have come onto the market in the last decade or so, and the fact that many national organisations involved in expeditions have their own manuals, there is need for yet another such book. The answer probably rests with the fact that the vast majority of these new books are coming from North America, whereas *Expedition medicine* has very much a British focus and provides useful contact details for training, rescue, and information sources within the United Kingdom. As the RGS has always been interested in expedition medical practice and is an organisation that has supported countless expeditions all over the world for more than 100 years, it is important that it has such an *aide-mémoire* for those who seek its advice. However, this very feature does somewhat limit its useful-

ness to the rest of the English-speaking world.

A difficult task for the editors of all such manuals is to decide on the target audience and hence the level of detail that needs to be provided. The book's introduction states that it provides information for doctors, nurses, and paramedics, as well as for people who are not medically qualified. However, most sections are far too superficially covered to be of sufficient practical value to an expedition doctor or medic. Such health-care providers would do far better to consult something like Paul Auerbach's hefty but comprehensive tome *Wilderness medicine*, or to carry a very practical recipe book such as James Wilkerson's *Medicine for mountaineering and other wilderness activities*.

Some sections are particularly well covered. The section on base-camp hygiene and health is very well written, with a great deal of sensible, practical advice — rather than the self-evident platitudes that are all too commonly found in similar chapters in other texts. Similarly, the chapter on canoe, kayak, and raft expeditions strongly indicates that the author has had plenty of hands-on experience in this field. Indeed, each chapter is very competently written, with very few errors of fact. The main regret is that most are considerably too brief to provide all the information that an expedition doctor would like to have on hand. In addition, there are a few quibbles.

The chapter on polar expeditions starts with an excellent photo of dog-sledding near Finse, Norway, and concludes with an equally fine shot of a plane on the Tasman Glacier, New Zealand, but both sites are really quite a long way from what could be called the polar regions.

A more serious error occurs on page 15, where the rabies-distribution map indicates Australia to have endemic rabies. This is clearly incorrect (although it must be admitted that in just the last couple of years rabies prophylaxis has been recommended for those few people exposed to lyssavirus in Australian bats).

Indeed, in view of the rapidly changing information about many tropical diseases, one could question the need for a number of the maps showing disease distribution, especially those with older data, such as the one for Japanese encephalitis 1986–90. This is especially so in view of the various up-to-the-minute sources readily available through the Internet — details of such sources being provided in the 'Further information' section at the end of the chapter.

There is a section on taking blood pressure (page 86) — but doctors, nurses, and medics will already be quite familiar with this skill. But for non-medical people there are a few relevant questions — can they really learn how to obtain a reliable blood pressure from such a short written instruction? Can non-medics reasonably be expected to carry a sphygmomanometer? How are they to interpret their findings?

Similarly, on pages 107–108 non-medical people are warned about the problems of suturing in the field and

quite correctly advised to favour Steristrips. However, even though no instructions are provided on suturing technique, a couple of diagrams are rather strangely included.

There appears to have been some glitch in compiling Appendix 3, 'References and further reading.' In general this is a well-selected choice of papers and books, but the section for Chapter 9, 'Water purification,' has been left out, and that title mis-appropriated to Chapter 10.

In summary, this volume is a useful *aide-mémoire* for medical needs for those contemplating an expedition. The RGS and the editors are to be congratulated on taking this from seminar notes to textbook and it is hoped that future editions will overcome the difficulty of providing a book to cover the needs of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and lay persons, in this age of super specialization. (D.J. Lugg and P. Sullivan, Polar Medicine, Australian Antarctic Division, Kingston, Tasmania 7050, Australia.)

**TEACHING IN A COLD AND WINDY PLACE: CHANGE IN AN INUIT SCHOOL.** Joanne Tompkins. 1998. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 153 p; soft cover. ISBN 0-8020-4168-X. £11.95.

*Teaching in a cold and windy place* is an invaluable read for anyone involved in the field of education, especially those working in rural areas affected by poverty, or areas where minority culture and empowerment are issues. Joanne Tompkins takes the reader through her experiences as a principal and program support teacher at a struggling school in a small community in Canada's eastern Arctic in the late 1980s. Enlightening her story with personal reflections imbued with deep conviction, Tompkins outlines the context and challenges of her task, and details the philosophy and methods on which she bases her approach to change.

While spending three years teaching at a primary school in a large community on Baffin Island, Tompkins worked with experienced northern educators and Inuit trainees, enabling her to gain considerable skills and insights. Following this valuable introduction to northern education, her next two years were spent as a member of the Baffin Region Program Support team primarily responsible for the integration of special needs children into the regular classroom. In this capacity she travelled to the region's communities, enabling her to encounter and experience many different teaching styles and classroom situations. Observing that well-planned programming not only allowed for the special needs children to be integrated in the class, but was essential to the success of all students. Tompkins concludes that 'if you organize the [school] environment in such a way as to encourage growth and development, people will respond' (page 34).

It was with this background that Tompkins accepted the job of principal/program support teacher at a small school with one of the lowest attendance rates in the Baffin region. During the next four years, many positive changes were introduced, as she and her staff attempted to solve the