

have been more useful to provide a series of seven small publications to cover the range of information included.

The inclusion of an appreciation of the late Jack Cram is a most touching tribute to his fine contributions to the development of education in the Canadian north. It is apposite that it should be part of this work, which covers the many diverse aspects of the subject. (Valery Galpin, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

### GEOPHYSICS OF SEA ICE

THE GEOPHYSICS OF SEA ICE. Untersteiner, N. (editor). 1986. New York, Plenum Press. (NATO ASI Series B, 146). 1196p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-306-42465-7. US\$89.50.

*The Geophysics of Sea Ice* is based on the proceedings of the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Air-Sea-Ice Interaction, held in Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy, between 28 September and 10 October 1981. With hesitation I admit that I did not attend that meeting, for in the sea ice community the Maratea summer school has become famous. Marateaites are everywhere. Their favorite pastime is to talk of good times in the classroom, on the beach, and in the restaurant at Maratea. In their company I am inadequate; I have omitted an essential part of my youth. But now the book is available, the book that will enable outsiders like myself to enter their clan. Only the science is there, but it's a start.

There are 17 main chapters, preceded by the editor's overview and followed by two special-topic chapters dealing with 'Accuracy of surface geostrophic wind forecasts in the central Arctic' and 'Internal waves in the Arctic Ocean'. It is not clear why these were added, though there is no doubt that they were well worth including. My own hypothesis is that Norbert Untersteiner, the editor, was aware that 17 is considered unlucky in Italy and he was not prepared to jeopardise sales. In the main body of the book the behaviour and characteristics of sea ice in its different forms are discussed, together with detailed accounts of associated oceanographic and meteorological phenomena, all at various spatial and temporal scales. All chapters are prepared by experts in the field. The book is not a collection of research papers presented at a conference; it does not resemble 'Proceedings of the 32nd International Conference on ...' Rather, each chapter forms a complete treatise in its own selected field, which can take the novice from first principles up to research level, but which can also act as a valuable reference text to more experienced readers. I have had access to preprints of some of the chapters for several years and have used them often. Together, as a textbook, they form a tome which no self-respecting polar pundit can be without.

To end such a glowing review I feel obliged to mention a few aspects of the book which I did not like. First the price: at \$89.50 I feel the book is vastly overpriced, and far above what a typical student (or poor academic) could afford. The book has been produced on a word processor in camera-ready form and is not typeset, presumably with the intention of keeping costs down. Yet it is the most expensive book in my office. Second, the book has taken a long time to produce; the NATO Advanced Study Institute on which it is based took place in 1981. The editor anticipates and dutifully apologises for this, and to some extent counters my criticism by noting that most chapters have been updated by authors in the intervening years. However, some have not, and I am aware that some have been published elsewhere. With these caveats I am still inclined to recommend *The*

*Geophysics of Sea Ice*, for there is no alternative and it is an excellent and comprehensive publication. I have little doubt that it will sell well to libraries (and rich academics), but sadly I suspect that it will not sell to the students for which it was intended. (Vernon Squire, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.)

### HELP IN LEARNING INUKTITUT

TUNUMIIT ORAASIAT: THE EAST GREENLANDIC INUIT LANGUAGE. Robbé, P. and Dorais, L.-J. 1986. Québec, Université Laval. Collection Nordicana 49. 265p, soft cover. ISBN 2-920197-49-5.

The purpose of this book, as stated in the introduction, is 'to put into the hands of all those wishing to learn the language of East Greenland, or are interested in the dialectology of Inuktitut, a linguistic tool which is easy to use'. It is intended to give 'a general description of grammatical forms and a basic list of affixes and words, as they are now in use on the East Coast of Greenland'. The book is divided into four sections: a series of tables outlining the main forms of East Greenlandic grammar; a list of about 300 frequently used postbases, with examples; a thematic dictionary of over 3,000 words; and an alphabetical index of East Greenlandic words. Translations are given in West Greenlandic (the official language of Greenland), Danish, English and French.

Herein lay the attraction for this reviewer, as perhaps for anyone else who 'collects' languages, but beware! The nuances conveyed by the translations can be tantalisingly different. Something that is 'not good enough' in Danish and French becomes 'despicable' in English (p 174). 'Er ved bevidsthed' surely means 'is conscious' (in a medical sense) in Danish, and hardly corresponds to 'knows all about it' (p 176). Which are right? The English is often very clumsy ('summer is more and more here' on p 32; 'one can hear it looks like people' on p 67), and even more misleading. A monoglot English-speaker may well be disconcerted by, for example, 'It is blown up' (p 126) where the context is wind, or 'is inclined' to describe something out of true. Surely Université Laval can do better than this. There are many typographical errors, particularly in the Danish. We may be justified in wondering whether such carelessness extends also to the East and West Greenlandic. The authors of a reference work of this kind, whatever disclaimers they make in the introduction ('Our book most probably contains many errors'), have a duty of care to their readership. The errors and inconsistencies in the translations would have been avoided by checking and correlating the information provided by the people acknowledged in the introduction. A corrected edition of the book would be welcome, for there is much to enjoy in this work for the insight it gives into the Inuit culture and way of life. (Rosemary Graham, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER)

### ANTARCTIC POLITICS

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF ANTARCTICA. Beck, Peter J. 1986. Beckenham, Croom Helm. 332p, maps and diagrams, hard cover. ISBN 0-7099-3239-1. £27.95.

Peter Beck, a Reader in International History at Kingston Polytechnic, is a student and critic of the Antarctic Treaty System. For several years has kept readers of *Polar Record* and other journals informed on the Treaty and its manifestations; an article in this issue is an example. Long may he continue, for Treaty affair seldom make headlines, at least in the UK, and public relations is not a strong point with those who negotiate this