

The book is avowedly written for the non-expert. It would make an ideal present for the science sixth-former. At ease in an armchair the intelligent layman, the public administrator, and the geographical student will find much to interest him. Even the expert will profit by observing the efficacy of homely similitudes and the telling diagrams in popular form. The diagrams are well conceived and excellently drawn and the ration of both these and of the photographs is generous. The book is quite unlike the shorter more specialized accounts that the Pelican books have accustomed us to; it has much more in common with the popular scientific writings of the nineteenth century. On every page the author evokes our wonder at the marvels of inanimate Nature.

Inevitably the treatment is somewhat uneven though the author turns the edge of criticism by claiming the right to select material of most interest to a beginner or a keen amateur. The quality and presentation of the chapter on water in the oceans is clear evidence of the author's special study of marine geology. The material in the other chapters can be found in a few text books coming from Europe and North America, but the treatment and selection is always interesting and bears the author's own stamp.

The glaciologist will find that the treatment of snow and glaciers in the chapter on water in the solid state is interesting for the beginner, but the specialist will recognize that the author has taken little or no account of recent work, and that some of the references are so old as to be unsuitable for "the further reading" recommended. The opening and closing of crevasses (annoyingly translated as "crevices" in one place) is forcibly brought home to the reader by the description of people whose fallen bodies have been recovered in a flattened state, but the presentation of the mechanics of opening and closing of the crevasses is scarcely realistic.

The author keeps his promise to observe the utmost economy in the use of technical terms. Unfortunately the translation of some of these terms is badly at fault or non-existent. The translator (May Hollander) would have benefited from the advice of English technical experts. German words are often used in the terminology of snow avalanches, e.g. "Wächte" instead of "cornice" (Fig. 6). "Snowslips" (p. 132) and "gelated" (p. 137) are not English, and "impenetrable" is not descriptive of the permeability of clay to water (p. 191). "Schneebrett" which is translated as "floe avalanche" (Fig. 6 and p. 134) is the well-known "wind slab avalanche". There are some misspellings, "steared" (of a ship, p. 30, Fig. 7), "laminary" (p. 260) and the usual translator's pitfall "tensions" instead of stresses or forces (p. 145).

W. H. WARD

SCHNEE UND LAWINEN IN DEN SCHWEIZERALPEN, WINTER 1952/53, No. 17 (1954), Davos-Platz. Buchdruckerei Davos AG, 120 p., illus.

THIS annual report of the operations of the Federal Snow and Avalanche Research Station at the Weissfluhjoch deals with:—Weather conditions, snow, avalanches and the damage caused by them throughout the Swiss Alps. There are notes on the sliding of snow, on the problem of snow pressure, and on sundry other scientific and practical work done by the Station. The value of the many tasks completed there under the competent leadership of its Director, Dr. M. de Quervain, is very great.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
The Journal of Glaciology

SIR, *Ice movement and temperature distribution in glaciers and ice sheets*

G. de Q. Robin's article in the *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 2, No. 18, 1955, p. 523, represents an important advance in the understanding of the temperature distribution and energy balance of extended ice formations on a level base. Sorge's observations of the firn temperature at Eismitte to