

important basic consideration to the climatic zones of the Ice Age and especially to the Würm Glacial Period. H. Poser investigates the northern borders of the loess in Central Europe, and the late glacial climate. New ideas on the structure of the Ice Age are reported by I. Schaefer, and also by W. Wundt, based on the ice-balance curve. K. Gripp deals with the proofs of great ice-edge fluctuations in Holstein. R. Grahmann seeks to contribute to the elucidation of glacial geological notions and gives a new all-embracing description of the old palaeolithic discoveries in Markleeberg near Leipzig. D. Wirtz and H. Illies deal with the border of the Pliocene and Pleistocene based on the stratification of Sylt. Pollen analysis is considered several times, in a basic survey by F. Firbas, in investigations of interglacial formations in north-west Germany by P. Woldstedt, U. Rein and W. Selle, and also by P. W. Thomson. E. Schönhals reports on the stratigraphy of fossil areas in loess districts and K. Richter on periglacial phenomena in Lower Saxony. Finally the Magdalenian era is described by H. Schwabedissen as well as by H. Gross, followed by anthropological considerations by H. Weinert and thoughts on the position of the Neandertal in the history of Man by G. Asmus.

Although it is not possible here to go into close detail of the individual contributions it can be asserted that the year book gives a good insight into the conditions, the methods and the problems of German Quaternary research. This new periodical meets the urgent demand of Science. We wish it a wide circulation and co-operation from all sides and by all Quaternary research workers.

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AN PALAEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS OF THE BRITISH ISLES AND ADJACENT PARTS OF EUROPE. LEONARD J. WILLS. Blackie and Son, Ltd. London, 1951. 64 pages, 22 plates, 2 text-figures. 21 shillings.

AN essential part of this valuable work is the short incisive Preface in which Professor Wills warns all readers of the limitations of palaeogeographical maps and of the dangers of regarding them as anything more than reasonable guesses, to be improved upon with further knowledge. If the meaning of the Preface is grasped, any fear that the publication of the maps will do more harm than good may be dismissed.

Three maps illustrate the conditions which may have obtained during the Pleistocene glaciation. Plate XX shows the areas in Europe believed to have been covered by ice at different stages: the Ante-Penultimate, Penultimate and Last Glaciations (Zeuner's classification). Plate XXI is based on the "Older Drifts" and gives the distribution and directions of ice movement of the Penultimate Glaciation in the British Isles. Plate XXII based on the Newer Drifts is an attempt to synthesize the work of many authors and to picture various stages of the Last Glaciation in the British Isles.

If, as has been well said, the trick of stimulating thought largely consists in inciting disagreement, these maps will prove most valuable. They are clear and easy to read, and brief notes draw attention to their salient features. We noticed only one slip—the expression "isostatic changes of sea-level." Professor Wills is to be heartily congratulated on the production of the Atlas which will be a delight to all students of the Past.

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