

Americas, long before skin cancers impact upon sun-worshipping northern peoples.

To his credit, McMichael brings some clarity and carefully thought-out analysis to an often hysterical debate on human and environmental interactions (hysteria mostly generated by western scientists with restricted and Malthusian viewpoints). He also pulls in the vital debate on global power structures. Chapters on the limitations of global economic systems are important. And, perhaps most importantly, by pitching towards the natural science perspective, *Planetary overload* attracts the attention of an audience that tends not to think much about health of the human species. In the end, like the author of any ambitious broad-brush book, especially in the environmental change field, McMichael is vulnerable to criticism on his details and his approach. It would be unfair to rail against what the book does not do, since what is done is done extremely well. So few scientists venture out with skill into the firing line of cross-discipline understanding. Epidemiologists are particularly wary of the risky arena of environmental futures guesswork.

This book by a more intrepid epidemiologist is one of the more insightful and clear-thinking post-Rio texts around, tackling the thorny debate of global environmental change and its impact on human beings with a refreshing breadth of vision. (Carolyn Stephens, Health Policy Unit, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

WEDDELL SEA ECOLOGY: RESULTS OF EPOS EUROPEAN 'POLARSTERN' STUDY. Gotthilf Hempel (Editor). 1993. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. xvi + 333 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 3-540-55605-2.

The European *Polarstern* Study (EPOS) was carried out in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica, in the 1988/89 field season. It involved 131 scientists from 11 European countries, and was under the auspices of the Polar Science network of the European Science Foundation. The expedition was in three parts. The first stage examined sea ice in the western and central Weddell Sea; the second stage was devoted to the open sea and the ice edge; and the third stage was intended for benthic research in the eastern region of the Weddell Sea. The results from the study were presented at the EPOS Symposium at Bremerhaven on 21–24 May 1991. Contributions from participants in the Symposium were published in *Polar Biology* volume 12 numbers 1 and 2. *Weddell Sea Ecology* comprises these same 37 papers complete with their *Polar Biology* references. The book also contains two abstracts, Syvertsen and Kristiansen on ice algae, and Lancelot and others on phytoplankton ice-edge blooms.

EPOS was, in many ways, similar to the BIOMASS programme (Biological Investigations of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks). It aimed to encourage academic interchange between scientists from many countries, who use different methodologies and who have different objectives. Many of the papers reflect this spirit of international cooperation. One example is the article by Bianchi and others (pages 225–235) about the effect of sea-ice extent, hydrography, and nutrient availability on the major phytoplankton groups in the northwestern Weddell Sea. The article is jointly written by 10 scientists from institutions in Italy, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and Finland, and shows collaboration between biologists and oceanographers.

The two publications resulting from EPOS are important works. Not only are they an illustration of successful international collaboration, they provide a comprehensive account of the valuable data that were discovered during the programme. The methodologies described and the information gathered will be of interest to many polar scientists, whether their main interests lie in the biology of the Antarctic or its physical environment.

THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE CONTROVERSY: TECHNOLOGY, CONSERVATION, AND THE FRONTIER. Peter A. Coates. 1993. Anchorage: University of Alaska Press. 447 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-67-6.

This is a paperback edition of the well-researched, carefully documented, and theoretically significant book that was first released in hard cover in 1991. The original edition was reviewed in this journal in 1992 (*Polar Record* 28 (167): 325). The soft cover edition includes a new 10-page preface.

Publications Received

LE ISOLE PERDUTE E LE ISOLE RITROVATE. CRISTOFORO COLOMBO, TILE E FRISLANDA. UN PROBLEMA NELLA STORIA DELL'ESPLORAZIONE NORDATLANTICA. Luigi de Anna. 1993. Turku: Università di Turku. 156 p, soft cover. ISBN 951-29-0004-1.

SAMER, PRÄSTER OCH SKOLMÄSTARE: ETT KULTURELLT PERSPEKTIV PÅ SAMERNAS OCH ÖVRE NORRLANDS HISTORIA. Sten Henrysson. 1993. Umeå: Centrum för Arktisk Forskning, Umeå Universitet (Rapport 23). 132 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISSN 0283-9717.

ARTIKA: THROUGH THE NORTHEAST PASSAGE BY ICEBREAKER. Oliver Watson. 1994. London: Sinclair-Stevenson. xix + 298 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85619-253-9. £18.99