

# Reviews

## ALL KINDS OF ICE

THE GROWTH AND DECAY OF ICE. LOCK, G. S. H. 1990. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 434 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-521-33133-1. £65.00, US\$100.00

My understanding of the aims of this innovative book is that the author is attempting to pull together concepts involving ice in many forms and at many scales in a structured way. The author remarks at the outset that this is an immense task. The range of topics covered is huge. Both theoretical and observational aspects of ice growth and decay in and on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, in and on water, and relating to biological systems are covered. Chapters on the thermodynamics of ice and the Stefan problem provide an important theoretical basis to the book, but the problem of such a wide range is that the level of detail to which the discussion of many points is taken will not be sufficient to satisfy the specialist. For example, the freezing of foods is given a quantitative treatment, whereas the melting of icebergs, a topic on which both theory and empirical observations are available, is treated in a purely subjective fashion.

The section dealing with permafrost processes, and in particular the geological results of these processes, is also supported by only a scattered and ageing list of references. I would imagine that similar statements could be made by specialists in other fields covered in the volume. However, while the book, in my view, will never command a wide readership due to the problems outlined above, it is clear that Lock has made a rather interesting attempt to find unity in an area that is usually divided among several disciplines. This is the strength of the work, but it has inevitably lead to a variability in treatment which was not entirely satisfying for this reader. (Julian Dowdeswell, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK.)

## DEVOLUTION IN NORTHERN CANADA

DEVOLUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CANADIAN NORTH. Dacks, G. (editor). 1990. Ottawa, Carleton University Press. 373 p, soft cover. ISBN 088629 110 0. Can \$19.95.

This collection of six case studies and five essays is the first book to emerge from the Consortium for Devolution Research, a four-year-old cooperative effort by Canadian university researchers to make northern research more relevant and more accessible to northerners by involving them in the research design and then sharing the results with them. Thus representatives of aboriginal groups and of the territorial and federal governments participated in workshops at the outset and at the conclusion of this research on the political devolution process.

Dacks defines devolution as the 'transfer of jurisdic-

tion from a senior government to a junior government', and, following an introductory historical essay (P. Clancy), the six case studies examine Canada's experience in shifting responsibility for forest and wildlife management (F. Abele, P. Clancy), health care (G. Weller, J. D. O'Neil), and oil and gas (G. Dacks) and in the evolution of local government in the Yukon and Northwest Territories (K. Graham). The closing essays seek and find patterns in the negotiation of devolution agreements (K. Graham); examine the effect of devolution on democratic institutions (F. Abele); discuss the very real possibility of dividing the Northwest Territory into two territories, eventually to become two provinces (G. Weller); and analyze the influence of devolution on the interaction between constitutional and political development in the North (G. Dacks). Little more than a mention is given to the philosophical aspects of devolution as a mediating institution between two largely incompatible approaches to political organization: Anglo-Canada's fundamental principles of majority rule and liberal individualism and the aboriginal inhabitants' assertions of group rights appertaining to a cultural collectivity; nevertheless, recognition of this fundamental conflict, which underlies the entire devolution process, informs the studies and lends them an even broader relevance, as the native peoples' anti-assimilation sentiments have much in common with those of the Québécois to the south.

As well as being a timely and useful set of studies and analyses, the book and the process of developing it may mark a new rapport between social scientists and northerners. While the consortium members indicate some disappointment at the extent of governmental and aboriginal input at the second workshop, they were pleased at the participation in the research design and were able to suggest ways of eliciting more response at the results stage of subsequent projects. (William V. Dunlap, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

## POLAR ECOLOGY AND RESOURCES

NORTH POLE SOUTH POLE: A GUIDE TO THE ECOLOGY AND RESOURCES OF THE ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC. Stonehouse, B. 1990. London, Pion. 216 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 1-85375-056-5. £17.95 To do justice in a review to *North Pole South Pole* is extremely difficult. Few coffee table books equal the lavish quality of production, and the illustrations are breathtaking. Superlatives certainly, but these would be superficial judgements of a work which in itself is outstanding, disciplined and well structured, irresistibly readable, with a scientific objectivity lightened by wry humour.

How the Arctic and Antarctic differ from the rest of the