

A FRENCH-ENGLISH GLACIOLOGICAL VOCABULARY

VOCABULAIRE TECHNIQUE INTERNATIONAL DE L'INGÉNIEUR: Supplements to *La Houille Blanche, Revue de l'Ingénieur Hydraulicien* (Grenoble). Cinquième Année, Nos. 4, 5 and 6, 1950.

IN these three issues of this Journal an attempt has been made to make a French-English descriptive vocabulary covering a wide range of glaciology—snow, ice and glaciers. The French words with English equivalents, both in heavy type, are printed in parallel columns with brief descriptions in smaller type, each in its own language.

The aim is laudable. It would be most useful to have a reliable glaciological glossary in the two tongues to which other languages, especially German, Italian and Spanish could be added in time. But the result in this case is poor. Many words are included which are never now used—the reviewer believes some have never been used—while there are important omissions, notably the various forms of sea ice.* The authors invite detailed criticism. This is being prepared. It has seemed worth while writing this review in the hope that the scheme, after more careful research, could be elaborated into a reliable work of reference giving equivalents of all glaciological phenomena in several languages and with accurate descriptions.

G. SELIGMAN

FROST FLOWER. U. NAKAYA and M. HANAJIMA. Kyoto, Japan: Kobunsha, 1950. 6 × 8½ in., 75 pages, 78 illustrations. 230 yen, post free.

THIS interesting little volume, illustrated with excellent photographs, describes "flowers" formed by ice and hoar on window-panes. Crystals formed on window-panes are classified as Isolated Hoar Crystals, Sheet Frost or Ice Flowers, the latter being formed by the freezing of condensation, whereas the former are due to direct sublimation of water vapour. Effects of films of paraffin and alcohol on the glass before the ice "flowers" are formed are illustrated and briefly discussed. The fern-like ice patterns are well reproduced in the photographs, and the curviform "fern leaves" when alcohol is present are indeed beautiful to the eye. Each illustration is described in both English and Japanese. The book should be perused by all interested in snow crystals, and is probably the best of its kind published since the well-known *Snow Crystals* by W. A. Bentley, 1931.

D. L. CHAMPION

* Since the above was written a further issue of *La Houille Blanche* (Sixième Année, No. 1) has been published and includes the missing sea ice section. This appears to be more satisfying than the others.