

tion of observations and descriptions, while the author leaps from north to south at a dizzying rate. In this thin volume, he touches on most aspects of polar studies. Snatches of polar history, such as Mawson's 1912 journey across Adélie Land, are liberally interspersed with snippets about glaciology in Spitsbergen, breathing patterns in Arctic seals, the Antarctic Treaty, satellite tracking in penguins, and the Alaska pipeline. Despite, or more likely because of, this holistic approach, no one issue is considered at enough length or, in most cases, objectively enough, for the reader to acquire an understanding of any depth, and it would appear that 'accessible science' means general statements with no figures or diagrams to support them.

To be fair, the book does not claim to be an academic study. Those with any knowledge of the current contentious issues in the polar regions will find Snowman's account irritatingly superficial, both in terms of information given, and in the style of presentation (conversations are repeated *verbatim*, complete with many instances of 'hey' and 'okay'). However, any book that attempts to increase the awareness of the general public about the role of the polar regions in global environmental change cannot be a bad thing.

ARKTOS: THE POLAR MYTH IN SCIENCE, SYMBOLISM AND NAZI SURVIVAL. Joscelyn Godwin. 1993. London: Thames and Hudson. 260 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-500-27713-3. £10.95.

As readers of *Polar Record* will be aware, the polar regions were of considerable interest to the Third Reich and its leaders. Although this National Socialist fascination was previously assumed to be essentially strategic in motivation, this book raises the question as to whether to some

extent the Nazi interest was also inspired by occultist ideas originally developed by theosophical writers such as Madame Blavatsky (1831–1891) and René Guénon (1886–1951). It should be stated that this is not a question that the author himself is concerned to resolve; his scholarly account is essentially a history of ideas focused primarily on various arcane beliefs about the Arctic — chiefly developed in the nineteenth century — which Godwin argues played a significant role in the formation of Nazi ideology.

Godwin's is probably as good a book as one could want on this subject. The bibliography is extensive, and the author has clearly trawled widely in support of material. Since few of the works cited will be found in polar libraries, *Arktos* certainly provides a point of entry to writings about the polar regions otherwise likely to be overlooked.

Publications Received

MUSKOX HUSBANDRY: A GUIDE FOR THE CARE, FEEDING AND BREEDING OF CAPTIVE MUSKOXEN. Pamela Groves. 1992. Fairbanks: Institute of Arctic Biology (Biological Papers of the University of Alaska Special Report 5). xiv + 148 p, soft cover. ISSN 0161-3243.

UNDERSÖKNING AV BLOCK PÅ ALES STENAR, SKÅNE, MED SCHMIDT TESTHAMMER. Rabbe Sjöberg. 1993. Umeå: Centrum för Arktisk Forskning, Umeå Universitet (Rapport 24). 28 p, soft cover. ISSN 0283-9717.

SAMERNA ISVENSKA LÄROBÖCKER 1865–1971. Karin Granqvist-Nutti. 1993. Umeå: Centrum för Arktisk Forskning, Umeå Universitet (Rapport 25). v + 45 p, soft cover. ISSN 0283-9717.