

he finds interesting the idea that the increments paid should be adapted more closely to the advantages or disadvantages of the place of work. These are two ideas which would play havoc with the existing system if they were introduced, but Ginsburg insists that they 'deserve attention'.

No legislation of this kind exists in the western world where, broadly, employers pay what they have to pay to get the right labour. But the Soviet system—which has shown itself to work, if not always perfectly—contains some ideas which western countries might find it useful to adapt to their own use.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO GREENLAND

[Review by Sylva Gethin\* of Michael Banks' *Greenland*. Newton Abbot, David and Charles; Totowa, New Jersey, Rowman and Littlefield, 1975, 208 p, illus.]

With Greenland becoming increasingly popular as a goal for travellers, ranging from Arctic veterans to British schoolboys, and also beginning to figure in travel operators' brochures, there is very likely a need for a general account of the country, easily available and written in English. There are of course a wealth of publications in specialized fields, as well as expedition reports of differing length and quality, but *Greenland* should cater for the requirements of those who need a good, if superficial, general survey. In its 200 pages it packs in a surprising amount of topics—general geography, climate, population, biology, history, economy, and the social problems encountered by a society in the process of rapid change. There is a fairly detailed section on exploration with separate chapters dealing with the east coast, the north and the ice sheet. The book is also, for once, up to date in its information, except perhaps when it is claimed that 'For the Greenlanders, integration with Denmark is a natural and logical step, and their best chance of surviving, unhurt, in the technological age. What is so very pleasant and unusual in these fractious times is that the union has every appearance of being a love match.' I fear this idyllic picture may be somewhat misleading. The pages of the Greenland newspaper *Atuagagdliutit*—which, by the way, appears every week these days, not every two weeks—are full of references to an emerging struggle for 'home rule', and a commission has just been appointed which will look into the possibilities of transferring certain areas of government to the provincial council of Greenland. In fact, the Greenland minister has been quoted as saying that Greenland home rule will be a reality by April 1979. If the drilling that is projected off the west coast of Greenland should eventually produce oil, conflicts seem unavoidable.

Due to the compression of the material the book has become somewhat dry and enumerative and hardly falls into the 'not to be put down' category, but as an introduction for the traveller or would-be student of the country it should serve well. There is, however, the usual quota of mis-spelt Scandinavian personal and place-names. That a few other errors have crept in, such as the placing of the Arctic Circle at 67° 30' on p 11, is perhaps due to the pressure of a deadline because the book is on the whole well documented. It is also well illustrated and has a useful, if short, bibliography and index. I would plead for the inclusion in the former of Henrik Rink's *Danish Greenland, its people and products*, especially as his *Tales and traditions of the Eskimo* is listed. It remains an extremely readable and informative classic and was reprinted in 1974, published by C. Hurst and Company, as indeed were the *Tales*.

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### A TEXTBOOK ON SNOW AND GLACIERS

[Review by Hans Röthlisberger\* of Friedrich Wilhelm's *Schnee- und Gletscherkunde*. Berlin, New York, Walter de Gruyter, 1975, vii, 434 p, illus. (Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Geographie, Bd 3, Teil 3.)]

When L. Lliboutry was writing his classic *Traité de glaciologie* more than 10 years ago he found it difficult even then to keep abreast of contemporary glaciological literature in view of the ever-increasing number of publications on the subject. This new textbook by Friedrich Wilhelm,

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