

he gives similar emphasis to every apparently relevant fact and hypothesis, seems often merely to be stirring muddy waters.

"The lemming year" is not written for biologists, and there are understandably many statements in it that are not strictly accurate, or are misleading. Other shortcomings and errors are of more general concern. The maps, for example, presented as an aid to the understanding of distribution patterns, lack any indication of the boundaries of the ranges of the lemmings. If the varying lemming ranged no farther west in the U.S.S.R. than the Ob' River as stated, its distribution would be difficult to understand. In fact, it lives as far west as the White Sea, which pinches off its tundra habitat in the same way as Hudson Bay does towards the east at the other end of its range. The term "Labrador" is used for the Labrador-Quebec peninsula. "Red" arctic poppies and "purple" dryas are said to make "glorious patches of colour" in the North American Arctic. A still picture from Walt Disney's movie "White Wilderness" shows varying lemmings, not brown lemmings.

"The lemming year" is a useful book, but not an authoritative one. It is hoped that it will encourage residents of lemming country to accumulate information on the remarkable phenomena that accompany the population processes of these interesting little creatures.

A. H. MACPHERSON

**THE FRIENDLY MONTAGNAIS AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS IN THE UNGAVA PENINSULA.** By FRANCIS HARPER. *Lawrence: University of Kansas.* 1964. 9 x 6 inches, 120 pages, 20 plates. \$2.00.

This volume deals with the Montagnais-Naskapi Indians, inhabitants of the Labrador Peninsula. It is based on a summer spent in the southeastern part of the Peninsula in the area of Knob

Lake and Seven Islands, and on the literature, which Harper has gone through to extract information about the Montagnais-Naskapi. He was conducting biological investigations but became interested in the Indians.

The work is divided into several sections. First he tries to make a distinction between Montagnais, Naskapi, and Cree. Following this, he discusses the distribution of the various groups within the Peninsula. Having set the stage, he presents data regarding the various branches of the Algonkian family that are located in the Labrador Peninsula; first the "Cree", then the "Naskapi," then what he terms the "Montagnais-Naskapi", and finally the "Montagnais" themselves. Next Harper discusses some of the "Montagnais" he met while doing field work. After this comes a list of Indian names for the mammals, birds, and fish encountered in the area. There is then a note on the Indian hunting dogs of the Montagnais-Naskapi, and consideration is also given to the Indian dances and canoes. The concluding section is devoted to brief biographical sketches of various ethnologists and others who have dealt with the Indians of the Labrador Peninsula.

The book is of extremely limited value. Great use is made of quotations to portray the Montagnais-Naskapi and in so doing Harper reveals his ethnological *naïveté*. There is no evaluation. For instance, on page 23 and again on page 56, he uses information stating that the Nichicun band has dissolved, having emigrated to Seven Islands. Some may have done so, but the majority still exist and reside during the summer at Lake Mistassini. Furthermore, he is obviously confused over the term "band" and its relation to the trading post. This is indicated on page 59 where he discusses the "Petitsikapau band" as defined by Speck. Since a person from this band trades at Seven Islands, the centre for another band, Harper wonders if this Indian should not be considered a member of the latter band also. One question is the story that he relates of an Indian carrying seven 100-lb. bags of flour up a flight of stairs as an actual

incident. This may be so, but it is curious that the same story is told elsewhere in the Labrador Peninsula. And always the narrator specifies a certain person who has accomplished this feat. Is not this possibly a myth?

In giving the names of the animals he has in one column used the spelling as given him by the Montagnais-Naskapi. This, of course, is of no value from the linguist's point of view. Furthermore, in getting the identification of birds, Harper had occasion to use a bird-book, having the Indian pick out and give the name of the particular bird. This technique has definite limitations. Many times the Indian will misidentify. Accordingly, Harper's terms must be used with a certain amount of caution.

There is, as noted earlier, very little to commend this book. In the early sections rarely does he add anything new to our knowledge of the Indians of the Labrador Peninsula. On page 38 he does present new facts regarding Fort MacKenzie and the Indians of the area but this is extremely meagre. Not until page 61 does he give any of his own observations and they cease on page 82. They consist of vague sketches of the various Indians that he met and talked with. Here is some new information.

Harper's portraits of the various individuals who have worked among the Indians of the Labrador Peninsula are limited. He has been selective by considering only the old-timers. Again most of his data are simply quotations. The sketch of Turner, though, is based on letters held in various archives. Here new material is presented that is rather interesting, regarding the life of a man who was the first to do field work among the Indians and Eskimos of Fort Chimo.

Harper does have a sympathetic feeling for the Indians of the Labrador Peninsula and this is fine. He presents a case, however, which is probably overdrawn. One gets the feeling that here are very helpful and well-disposed natives, although involved in a way of life that he admits is changing and bringing hardships to them. Because of

this his work is in contrast to other accounts of the Indians of this area. Nowhere does he consider the situation that has arisen because of the mines that have been established in the area. He mentions the fact that some groups have moved into these areas, but he does not portray the actual conditions under which the people live. All in all, this is a very disappointing work.

EDWARD S. ROGERS\*

CLIMATE-GLACIER STUDIES IN THE JUNEAU ICE FIELD REGION, ALASKA. By MELVIN G. MARCUS. *Chicago: The University of Chicago. 1964. Department of Geography, Research Paper No. 88. "Planographed", paper, 9 x 6 inches, ix + 128 pages, 14 tables, 25 figures, including maps. \$4.00.*

This is one of the few published works that attempt to evaluate critically the interactions between glaciers and climate. Professor Marcus assumes that short-term changes in the hydrological regimen of glaciers can be explained by short-term climatic fluctuations. The region chosen to test this hypothesis was the Juneau Ice Field, Alaska, where extensive glaciological and meteorological data were available for a period of over 10 years from the American Geographical Society's Juneau Ice Field Research Project. In addition, other meteorological data, including temperature as a function of altitude from radio-sonde balloons, were available from Juneau and other weather stations. Emphasis was placed on the Lemon Glacier, where the complete hydrological budget was calculated for several years, using a variety of techniques. Over the period from 1948 to 1958 the Lemon Glacier suffered a net water deficit of about  $21 \times 10^6$  m.<sup>3</sup>, although there were budget years such as 1954-5, when the glacier had a water surplus. The data were analyzed statistically in

\*Royal Ontario Museum, University of Toronto.