

REVIEWS

THE CLIMATE OF CENTRAL CANADA.

By W. G. KENDREW and B. W. CURRIE. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1955. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; ix + 194 pages; 5 plates, numerous charts, diagrams and tables. \$1.00.

Some time ago a series of research monographs on the climate of certain Canadian regions was prepared in various Canadian universities. These studies were originally commissioned by the Defence Research Board, under funds administered by the Department of Transport. The reports—five in all—were considered too detailed for publication, and the Department of Transport set about the preparation of condensed and revised versions.

The present volume, based in part on one of these studies (by B. W. Currie), is the first revision to be published. It is the work of W. G. Kendrew, the well-known British climatologist, who has not only revised Currie's original study that originally covered only the Mackenzie Basin and Keewatin, but has extended it to include also the Prairie Provinces. There is a general introduction, and this is followed by a detailed description of the screen-level climate of a series of arbitrarily defined climatic regions. Extensive tabulations of climatological averages, including station tables, make the book very useful for reference purposes.

The choice of climatic parameters is traditional and unventuresome. The reduction of temperature to mean sea-level on the monthly maps is hard to defend, since in the north the temperature lapse rate of the lower atmosphere is normally inverted in the cooler months; reduction to a standard pressure surface, such as 1,000 or 900 mb., might have obviated this difficulty. There is some disagreement between the other maps and those recently published in the *Climatological*

Atlas of Canada, issued by the same Department. Nevertheless the book fills a real need, and will be welcome to all who travel in the northwest. One hopes for early publication of the remaining volumes.

There are some editorial slips, of which photograph 2, p. 96, is the best example. The view shown is of a locality on the upper Thelon River, above Beverly Lake, not Wager Bay, as the legend indicates. F. KENNETH HARE

MAMMALS OF NORTHERN ALASKA ON THE ARCTIC SLOPE.

By JAMES W. BEE and E. RAYMOND HALL. Lawrence, Kansas: Allen Press, 1956. (*Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Misc. Publ. No. 8*). 9×6 inches; 309 pages; col. frontispiece; 4 plates, 127 numbered figures, 5 tables. Cloth \$4.00, paper bound \$1.00.

This book represents the first attempt to provide a definite account of the mammals occurring on the Arctic Slope of Alaska. It is based on specimens collected and observations made by the authors and their assistants during two summers (July 3-September 6, 1951; June 14-September 12, 1952), and on material in the collections of nine museums in the United States and Canada.

A coloured frontispiece by R. P. Grossenheider depicts the five species of microtine rodents and the three species of shrews considered in the book. Although well executed by the artist, the subtle shades of colour seen in the living animal are not accurately portrayed. The book consists of a short introduction, a check list of the species considered, a discussion of these mammals, a hypothetical list of species for which records are lacking, a key to the mammals of the Arctic