

An example of one such spurious comparison is the single Copper Eskimo kayak collected by the Fifth Thule Expedition. Although it is said to be from Tree River or Bernard Harbour, it is clearly an aberrant type, probably obtained from the Netsilingmiut in trade. It is not at all similar to one in the National Museums of Canada collected in 1913-16 by Diamond Jenness, or to others in museum collections elsewhere. Furthermore, the narrow-bladed paddle described by Birket-Smith is quite unlike the very wide cupped paddles collected by Jenness.

The book's main value lies in Taylor's careful and detailed descriptions of the Netsilik artefacts and as such is a very useful addition to any Arctic library. It is heartening to see an addition to the long-neglected study of material culture, particularly so in this case where it involves a high quality collection of early Eskimo material never previously published *in toto*.

David W. Zimmerly

**POLAR DESERTS AND MODERN MAN.**  
EDITED BY TERAH L. SMILEY and JAMES H. ZUMBERGE. *Tucson, Arizona: University of Arizona Press, 1974. 9¼ x 12¼ inches, 173 pages, illustrated. \$11.50.*

This is a collection of papers presented at the Polar Deserts Symposium sponsored by the Committee on Arid Lands of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, late in 1971. Many of the chapters, however, show evidence of further work, including references as late as 1973. The volume is cloth bound, of good quality paper, with clear photographs and diagrams of a good size.

The chapters are grouped under three sections: Natural Environment (102 pages, including the article on native peoples), Economic Basis for Development (14 pages), and Problems of Immigrants (39 pages). The theme, as developed in the Preface, is that of "the polar deserts with respect to their physical and biological characteristics in relation to intensified development in polar areas . . . exploring similarities and differences between the polar deserts and low-latitude deserts . . . (and) . . . how man might apply knowledge gained by a long history of occupation of the latter areas."

A working definition of "polar desert" is proposed (under 25 cm of precipitation, with a mean July temperature of below 10°C) and the matter, of course, receives attention in the main body of the volume. "Polar", as might be expected, given the concern with

aridity, explicitly includes ice-free areas of Antarctica as well as the High Arctic.

The most interesting parts of the book occur where authors pay some attention to the stated objectives. Thus, for example, Giovinetto, and also Bovis and Barry, tackle the problems of defining a "polar desert" competently and interestingly, Péwé develops at least some general points of comparison between warm and cold deserts (low precipitation but fluvial activity much in evidence, role of winds, etc.) and Cameron tabulates characteristics of soils in both types of desert. With few exceptions, however, other authors pay little but lip service to deserts of any kind, particularly to low-latitude deserts.

It is especially sad that the last two sections do not come to grips, even in general terms, with some of the exciting possibilities raised by the "applied" part of the objectives. The relative brevity of these sections is a reflection of the continuing ascendancy of the physical and biological sciences in polar regions. One hopes that the balance is changing and that more work like, for example, that in the paper by Tussing, "Processes and costs imposed by environmental stress", will be forthcoming.

No doubt many possible polar applications of knowledge and experience gained in low-latitude deserts were discussed at the symposium in response to these papers which are, in general, competent in themselves. Because the majority of the authors appear to be scholars with predominantly polar, especially arctic, experience, such points almost inevitably do not receive attention in their papers.

The dramatic entry of the oil industry into cold desert areas helped to stimulate the organization of the symposium at which these papers were presented. Could not this volume, possibly with a little more antarctic content, provide the *polar* briefing for a second conference which might have a greater concern with low-latitudes?

W. P. Adams

**CLIMATE CANADA.** BY F. KENNETH HARE and MORLEY K. THOMAS. *Toronto: John Wiley, 1974. 7½ x 9½ inches, 256 pages, illustrated. \$8.95.*

The appearance of *Climate Canada* marks the entry into the increasingly competitive field of introductory university-level climatology textbooks of a work of regional specialization. The book is intended to provide "a simple descriptive account of Canada's climates and their interaction with man" for college and university students and interdisciplinary environmental scientists.