

The complete volume measures  $12\frac{1}{4}$  in  $\times$   $9\frac{1}{4}$  in  $\times$   $1\frac{3}{8}$  in, including the charts which are supplied in an envelope placed inside the back cover. The text is reproduced from typescripts but is well laid out and easy to read. Although there is no index, the Table of Contents and Lists of Figures and Tables are so adequate that it is easy to find any reference required.

For those who are actively concerned with the measurement of gravity at sea, this book is essential, nor can it be disregarded by anyone concerned with the Earth's gravity field. But Chapter IV and the anomaly charts (Appendices V and VI) will be of great value and interest to all those geologists and geophysicists concerned with submarine geological structures.

Professor Lamar Worzel is to be congratulated on having collected together so much data in one volume and presenting the results with such a clear and concise text.

B. C. BROWNE

### Antarctica

Edited by T. Hatherton

(Methuen & Co., London 1965, pp. 511, 90s in U.K.)

'The publisher of books must no doubt assess his retail price such as to encourage the purchaser and yet afford the prospect of an adequate profit. Is there a price limit beyond which the private purchaser will not venture?' These remarks preface a brief investigation (*Weather, Lond.*, 1965 July) into reviewers' comments on book prices. It is concluded that the personal cut-off price has risen from forty shillings in 1950 to seventy-five shillings in 1965. We give so much attention to the price of the book reviewed here because it is inevitable that it will be compared with *Antarctic Research* (edited by Sir Raymond Priestley, R. J. Adie & G. de Q. Robin), published in 1964 by Butterworth at £10. There is considerable overlap in the content of the two books but it should be said at the outset that both are good value; perhaps we need a paperback to complete the spectrum, however.

The Hatherton volume has four main subdivisions, 'The Nations in Antarctica', 'The Southern Ocean', 'The Antarctic Continent' and 'The South Polar Atmosphere', and each of these has between three and eight authors. Many of them find it necessary to start with a one-paragraph history of Antarctic exploration, sprinkled with endless elegant variations on 'the *terra Australis nondum cognita*', and the 'frigid southern continent', and almost all conclude that 'more work needs to be done'. This is unsatisfying for the reader. Contrast it with the poetic conclusion of 'The Ice Sheet' by A. J. Gow—'The Antarctic is an example of a glacially controlled climate rather than a climatically controlled glacier. The land mass is a prisoner of its ice sheet and the ice sheet has become a victim of its glacially induced climate. Catastrophic melting, even starvation, seems most unlikely under present conditions.'

The diagrams have been drawn without sufficient consideration for the scale at which they will be reproduced and the maps are particularly inadequate. Contrast the vague coastal outlines used in 'The Aurora australis' (Gadsden) with the crowded, illegible, mass of data in 'The Land Beneath the Ice' (Bentley). For the general reader the 'Techniques of Living, Transport and Communication' (Law) and 'National Interests in Antarctica' (Hanessian) are excellent reviews, but it seems a pity that the national and political considerations were given pride of place in the first chapter. The specialist will recommend this book to the newcomer in any one of the fields covered, at research student or technician level, and he will do well to refer to it himself in fields related to his own.

S. EVANS