

covers just the geographical assessment of the causes and effects of the floods but also includes a good deal of discussion on the flood predictions, forecasting and watershed management. The book as a whole can be considered to have two separate halves dealing with physical and human aspects of flood problem.

Starting with 'floods are News' in introduction, the author considers the basic problems like definitions, causes and conditions of flooding. The author has classified floods on the basis of causes, floods caused by precipitation - Rainfall, snowmelt and those like estuarine floods - storm surges and dams collapse floods and includes detail analysis of each cause. In the fifth chapter floods are considered as the agent of geomorphic processes wherein their effects on channel morphology and flood plain formation are discussed.

Chapters six and seven include the problems of and methods for the prediction and forecasting of floods. It includes the deterministic and probabilistic approaches

of predictions and computer simulation and flood warning systems for forecasting.

In the second half of the book human response to the flood hazard is discussed under three separate chapters as 'possible adjustments', 'flood abatement' and 'flood protection'. A separate chapter deals with the economic aspects of response to flood hazard wherein flood damages are basically classified as tangible and intangible. Besides the classification of the damages, it includes cost benefit analysis as a method for evaluating the damages.

The last chapter includes a brief discussion on the prospective improvements in understanding and dealing with the problems of floods. The author outlines the areas, in brief, where certain amount of improvement can be achieved specially with reference to data collection, prediction and forecasting of floods.

As it includes almost all the aspects of flood problems, the book has become really a comprehensive one, and for geographers and others, it would prove to be an informative volume. S. R. J.

Manual for Block Level Planning

Prodipto Roy and B. R. Patil (Ed)
The Macmillan Company of India Limited
1977, 124 p, 26 Illustrations and 36 Tables,
Rs. 18.00

The manual prepared by the Central Research Cell of the Pilot Research Project on Growth Centres, provides guidelines for block level planning based on a framework of the growth centres, the villages within their service areas and the services available.

The manual contains nine chapters and five appendices. The first two chapters deal with origins, utility, objectives and data and mapping needs. The third chapter describes the spatial aspect of planning. The description, analysis, formulation and implementation of plans for agriculture, education, health, industry and transportation sectors has been specified in the remaining chapters.

In the final chapter, integrated rural development is viewed as a multi-level, a multi-sector, and a multi-section concept. The integrated rural development does not aim only at the more efficient provision of basic social and economic services, or reducing inequalities, but is more inclusive including the efforts directed towards reducing the unemployment in the agricultural sector and utilizing the surplus labour force in the most meaningful way.

The manual is useful for research workers in the field of area development and developmental planning particularly for planning at the village and block level. The maps and proformas given in appendices would guide a research worker on the data collection and analysis.

V. S. D.