

conducive to the clarity of understanding. Ideas based on global evidences could have been given precedence over what has been discarded.

The sections devoted to weathering, erosion and river valley development are outdated and inadequate. The author has not thought it worthwhile to think of channel properties and their hydrological implications. The discharge characteristics and flood regimes of rivers have been completely ignored. Yet the Davisian model of cycle of erosion with comments on its validity has found a place in the book reminding one of what wooldrige wrote half a century ago.

The landforms in different milieus or owing to a variety of processes have been discussed in detail, may these be karst region, aeolian landform or the areas of glacial landforms. A novelty in the book is the addition of the chapter on periglacial landforms. Coastal landforms and geomorphology of ocean floors have received special attention. The book closes with two chapters — one on basic

concepts (a la Thornbury) and the other on Applied geomorphology. Why the basic concepts at the end of this book? Does the author think that the students can understand the basic concepts only after reading through the book. Applied geomorphology is what one has to emphasize to project the importance of the discipline.

For a volume of this size, the quality of paper and the printing could have been chosen more carefully. Was it too much to have a quality production of the book? May be, the author and the publisher, both had in their mind the intended readership, keeping the price quite low within the purchasing capacity of University students.

The reviewer finds the book painstakingly written and the treatment very, comprehensive. Both the students and the teachers will find it easy to read and understand. If the book picks up, and one hopes, it does, the second edition could be brought out as a library edition.

K. R. Dikshit

'Environmental Geography'

Prayag Pustak Bhavan, Allahabad, 1991, pp. 517, price Rs. 120/-

by SAVINDRA SINGH

This is a book that contains themes a geographer usually includes in environment, and gives a very comprehensive account of environment from a geographical perspective. The book combines the approach of a physical geographer with those of a bio-geographer and ecologist. The merit of the book is that even a student without a background of any one of the above disciplines can read it profitably, since all unfamiliar themes are

discussed in the text and the jorgan simplified. The book is written in the nature of a text book of themes, whether they relate to sedimentation and erosion, trophic levels, nutrient cycles or even the basic concept in ecology. All find a place in the volume.

As the author states in preface, the first five chapters deal with concepts like environment, ecology, eco-system, and

Biosphere. The chapter on plant and animal kingdom will prove helpful to students who have not studied biology. Environmental degradation and the Environmental pollution are the most topical themes discussed with Indian examples. Environmental and the natural resources figure only under planning and management. And, Savindra Singh has absolutely ignored population pressure, development strategies and their impact on resources. The world view of 'Limits to growth' does not find an echo in this book. The mention of population explosion as a factor in environmental degradation is only incidental.

To all environmental issues, there is a socio-economic and human side. The history of economic development and particularly the exploitation of resources with their present consequences will be missed by all serious readers of environmental problems. More pertinent is the fact that the global aspects of environment may be different from the regional or local issues. One does not find any discussion of the global environmental issues, may these be climate change, population, poverty or all too important bio-diversity and genetic resources, which are so much in the air these days. A discussion of Environment and economic development, regardless of the author's stand, could

have highlighted the significant issues involved.

These comments notwithstanding, the book fulfills the longfelt need of the students of geography. In the opinion of the author it is equally useful to teachers of the subject and others interested in environment. The author, it must be admitted, has done elaborate reference work and used a variety of material from diverse sources, as seen from the 'References' at the end. Tables and diagrams have acknowledged the sources and the interested readers can certainly go to the original references. Why an index is not compiled, one does not quite understand.

This is certainly the most comprehensive book written by an Indian author on Environmental geography in this country. It very well serves the need of Indian geography and geographers. Dr. Surindra Singh deserves not only appreciation but even admiration for writing this book. One hopes, the publishers bring out a library edition, in not too distant a future.

The reviewer has no hesitation in recommending it to college and university students and the teachers alike.

K. R. Dikshit

An Introduction to our Earth and Environment

by D. N. SINGH and J. SINGH

Published by Environment and Development Study Centre (EDSC), Varanasi,

1988, pp. 229

This book is the outcome of a joint effort by a geographer and a geophysicist. There is, no doubt, an introduction to the earth, which traces its parentage, its

position among the planets of the solar system its interior including gravity and gravity anomalies, and finally the reversal of the earth's magnetism. The surface fea-