

Though she avidly wishes to return to South Africa, events prevent her from doing so, and she ripens into old age, after begetting her children; her grand children too peg her down; all through the decades of poverty and squalor. She fights adversity with determination, is helped by her relations and neighbours. There is amity between Muslims and Hindus; and neighbourly help in times of difficulty. Epidemics visit the village; local medicine and talismen fortify the sufferers. The village life is fast changing; from the British rule to Independence, with woes of Partition thrown in. There are noble souls working as village doctors; traditional landlords—Brahmins—take a lead in the village uplift. But the growing metropolis of Bombay has a sweeping influence; there is migration to Bombay. The old lady continues

to live undauntedly and refuses to go back to South Africa where her earning sons are beckoning her : "Much better I stay here on the ground where Allah has put me".

Brenda Kidman visited the villages and lived among its people. The narrative is laced with interludes of the political changes that are taking place in India. The village survives. The chief merit of this book is it breathes life and environment. This, in the reviewer's opinion, is real human geography; an animated picture of man-environment relationship. Geographers will find much that is useful to make Indian Settlement Geography meaningful and useful for planning and uplift of Village India.

C. D. Deshpande

Physical Geography : Savindra Singh; Prayag Pustak Bhavan, Allahabad, 1993,
pp. 547, Price Rs. 140/-.

This book is a significant addition to the books on Physical Geography. Although there are many books dealing with this branch of Geography, more often they are beyond the reach of a common student as they are heavily priced. This book by Dr Savindra Singh is the most comprehensive, and illustrative book and every student of Geography can easily purchase it. Moreover, it contains numerous examples from our own country, gives references to places, a geography student can visit and study the landscape. There is no doubt that it will be equally useful to the students appearing at different competitive examinations.

The subject matter is presented under major themes, such as lithosphere (Geomorphology). Hydrosphere (Oceanosphere) and Atmosphere (Climatology). The chapters under each theme are, however, not conventional.

The discussion of Lithosphere begins with a chapter on 'Origin of Earth' followed by 'The Age of the Earth'. Both these chapters deserve special mention, as the author has tried to cover every single aspect of the theme.

Theories regarding the origin of solar system are discussed very well. The geological clock and the geological time scale is a welcome trend in a book on Physical Geography. One must also appreciate the masterly treatment of theory of isostasy and the concept of cycle of erosion.

The section on oceanography (Hydrosphere) deals with properties of ocean water like temperature, salinity besides oceanic deposits. The chapter on coral reefs and atolls considers almost every aspect of this unique formation.

'The mechanism of solar radiation' is also

discussed in a most scientific way. The simple language, neat diagrams, huge data base and upto date information on recent cyclones and earthquakes in the world, as well as India, are some of the salient features of this book.

The cover photograph of Bheraghat Marble Gorge is very attractive. The utility of the book however could have been increased by

giving an index and the list of reference books. The book will be quite useful to students and teachers of Geography as it is like a ready reckoner to Physical elements of Geography.

S. N. Karlekar

India – “A regional interpretation” : Professor C.D. Deshpande Published by
Indian Council of Social Science Research and Northern Book Centre,
New Delhi, 1992, pp. 330, Price Rs. 310/-

Professor Deshpande has brought out the above book, which gives a different dimension of regions and regionalization in India. Professor Deshpande's earlier book - "Western India", was more an analysis of physical than historical, cultural and economic aspects. The present book deals with not only the physical aspects but also the historical and cultural factors along with economic setting. A classification, suggested by the author, may lead to better understanding of different parts of India, their environmental setting and the problems raised by human interaction with nature related to growing population and poverty, and also sometimes due to wrong priorities. This has been admitted by the author himself.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the classification and its basis including the role played by physical aspects as well as climatic and biotic factors. Part II - "Regions" deals with physical characteristics along with the environmental and cultural aspects, and more emphatically socio-economic problems of the dominant community in each region. The last part is concerned with the "Inter Regional and National" outlook, which takes into account combined regions

within the framework of the nation and suggests reorganization with a federal structure of states as well as sub-states. The author hopes that this new division would make India politically stable and socio-economically dynamic. It also takes into account the regional aspirations of various communities in the states, especially the big states, such as, U.P. and Bihar.

The regions, as described by the author in Part II, deal with the historical, political, cultural and socio-economic aspects which *inter alia* breaks a fresh ground in some respects. The last chapter entitled "Towards a Better Federalism" attempts to give a new dimension to the centre-state relations, while advocating smaller states.

The author during the last several years had visited most parts of India and closely observed the physical landscape and man-environment interaction. During the writing of the present book, he had undertaken a journey to Ladakh region and travelled from Ladakh region to Shrinagar by a truck, which must have been quite an adventure. Thus the regional characteristics have been brought out by the author through his personal experiences