

ues cannot be at the cost of scientific rationality. Romance of remoteness in British culture by Pomela Smith, though only indirectly related to the theme of the eminar is immensely readable and suggests that the attitude to remote places is emotional rather than rational. These, to quote the author, become the depository for fantasies about escape, utopian living, heroism, freedom ... and further, remoteness is endowed, not an inherent characteristic, associated with highly imaged deep rural places.

The other two papers which can be paired, viz. Environment and Development Theme by Andres Blowers and the other 'the State, Business, Diplomacy and Environment' by C. P. Singh, share the editors' concern, the former pointing out to the contrast in the perspectives to development vis-a-vis environment, tempered as they are by national interests, and the latter giving a contemporary picture of international deplomacy where business interests get primacy over ideological values. A down-to-earth study of urban environment seen in the dysfunctioning of drainage, sanitation, supply of potable water in Trivandrum and Delhi, the two Indian Capitals demonstrates the pathology of Indian cities. Urban expansion and damage to ecology, the case of Jaipur by Sharma and Nathawat and the difficulties encountered in urban planning illustrated with the case study of Visakhapatnam by Sheema Asthama have dicussed the problems of urban planning.

In talking of rural landscape, village develop-

ment and micro level planning, Mukerjee emphiases the varying nature of concerns shown by different village communities, where the appraisal of resources and environmental problems could be realistically assessed with the participation of the people, and appropriate development promoted. To fulfil this task R. B. Singh and S. K. Chattopadhyya have drawn attention to the need for indepth understanding of local problems through large scale mapping of village resources.

From the tenor of the papers what is clear is an overall acceptance of the philosophy of sustainable development - a key word like 'Limits to Growth' - which figures in most papers. Being geographers, the contributors have concentrated on land related problems, rural and urban; but some of the important facets of the problems like climate change, flood and drought, biological diversity and forests, erosion and sedimentation demographic pressure, damage to the environment in the coastal and highland areas, and above all pollution and degradation of the resources - air, water, soil, and vegetation -are virtually ignored.

A few papers certainly stand out as contributions to the subject yet the volume remains thematically weak. The case studies provide illustrative material and some of them even an insight into what is happening at a village or town level. The book contains enough readable material for a selective reading.

*K. R. Dikshit*

*Geography of India* - by Prithvish Nag and Smita Sengupta, Concept Publishing, New Delhi, 199.

Any addition to the literature on regional geography of India is welcome, if only because of the changing socio-economic scenario and the consequent regional contrasts that follow. The

present book has taken cognigance of the changes and offers additional material on India.

The authors have started with a brief historical

background of the region from the historic to the modern period and followed it up with a discussion of the physiographic setting with very limited attention paid to structure and geology. A chapter on Environment is a novelty in the book, notwithstanding the fact that certain environmental problems, like soil-erosion, do not find any place in the discussion. The natural resources and their utilization, extending over five chapters, examined in detail, based on the available data of the eighties, forms the core of the book. Population and

settlements, their distribution and migration based on 1981 data complete the picture. A discussion of Indian ocean raises expectations, but if the reader expects to read any thing on geostrategic importance or resource base of Indian ocean he may be disappointed. Cartography in the book leaves much to be desired.

The book is short and handy and students may read it for relatively recent data on some aspects of Indian geography.

*S. R. Jog*

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