

H. R. BÁRÐARSON. *Ice and fire: contrasts of Icelandic nature*. Reykjavík, H. R. Bárðarson, [c1971]. [iv], 171 p., illus.

To those fortunate members of the Glaciological Society who attended the conference in Iceland in 1970 this book will be a very pleasant reminder of their visit to Iceland. To the rest of the membership it can provide a useful introduction to a part of the world in which glaciology and vulcanology are very closely associated. The excellent illustrations in this book, both black and white and colour, demonstrate not only the dramatic and sometimes catastrophic character of the Icelandic landscape but also some of the classic landforms associated with glaciers and volcanoes.

The text of the book is designed for a non-scientific readership and it is clear and concise. It includes discussions of sea ice as well as land ice, the main ice caps and glaciers, glacier lakes, hot springs and volcanoes. The author has made use of up-to-date scientific papers and there is a good bibliography. Without any wish to detract from the text, it must be stated that it is the high quality of the illustrative material that is the main attraction of this book.

R. J. PRICE

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION. *WMO sea-ice nomenclature. Terminology, codes and illustrated glossary. Edition 1970*. Geneva, Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization, 1970. [ix], 147 p. [including 175 photos]+corrigenda slip. (WMO/OMM/BMO, No. 259, TP. 145.)

INTERNATIONAL agreement on nomenclature is always difficult to reach. The difficulty pertains not so much to language—lists of linguistically equivalent terms can meet that—as to definitions. How does one reconcile the body of meaning which has grown up round, say, the term “fast ice”, with the broadly similar, but not identical, concept denoted by the Russian term *pripay*? Canadians may think of “young ice” as having a maximum thickness of a foot (after which they give it another name), while Norwegians may allow their equivalent term only half that thickness. There are many points of this kind, because seamen of many countries have their own traditions of ice navigation and therefore their own terminologies.

The obvious need to standardize has been recognized for thirty years and more, but the process is bound to be slow. The World Meteorological Organization has had since 1947 an official commitment to further this cause, but has only now published in generally accessible form the results of its labours. This *WMO sea-ice nomenclature* (incidentally, “floating ice” would be more appropriate in the title than “sea ice”) stems from an “abridged ice nomenclature” adopted in 1956, and was itself adopted in 1968.

It must be said at once that much progress has been made. The 157 defined concepts, which are the core of the work, have now reached a stage at which they cover all the main aspects of the subject, avoid overlap one with another, and evidently command international support. Names have been found for the concepts—often, of course, traditional ones (though sometimes with a narrower meaning than in popular usage), but some new ones also.

The terms are arranged both systematically and alphabetically. The full text is given in Russian as well as in English, and is faithfully translated. There is an intention to have French and Spanish texts also, and to introduce a table to show linguistic equivalents in all four languages (perhaps others could be added too?); but these sections, together with the codes by which the information is to be transmitted, are to be published later. Finally, there is a large section of illustrations, in which 107 of the terms are shown, generally with two pictures of each.

A difficult balance which a nomenclature of this kind must hold is that between proliferation of terms, when the nomenclature begins to become a dictionary of all the words that have