

the practical implications of engineering in permafrost. Throughout all chapters there are abundant references to a wide range of literature ideal for further study. The book covers mainly the Arctic with brief reference to low-latitude alpine permafrost areas. The Antarctic does not feature. One very minor criticism might be noted by geographers—introductory comments about the location and reasons for economic development are often discussed in simplistic terms. But these are minor and do not detract from overall value. The book, especially the first part, is the best available concise account of permafrost. It deserves to be widely read, and would be if only the price was more appropriate to the targeted readers. (David Sugden, Department of Geography, University of Aberdeen, St Mary's, High Street, Old Aberdeen AB9 2UF, Scotland.)

THE ANTARCTIC CIRCUMPOLAR CURRENT: A SOVIET VIEW

STRUCTURE AND VARIABILITY OF THE ANTARCTIC CIRCUMPOLAR CURRENT. Sarukhanyan, E' I. 1986. Rotterdam, Balkema. (Russian Translation Series 44). 108p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 90-6191-467-1. £19.00.

This useful little book is a translation of a Russian work of 1980 vintage, and gives a coherent review of the results of two interlocking research programmes of the 1975–79 period. These were the Soviet POLEX-South and the US-led International Southern Ocean Studies (ISOS); both programmes were aimed at improving our understanding of the synoptic properties of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, and their aims and methods were so similar that the two projects developed a formal and fruitful system of collaboration. The results of the field studies, which involved the use of drifting buoys and current meter moorings as well as oceanographic station work, have given us a new insight into the complexity of the world's most important current system. The current varies immensely in time and space; it appears to be divided into filaments; it is greatly affected by bottom topography; and a large part of its energy is located in eddy motion. Concisely but adequately surveying these results, this book is a timely one—but only just, for the level of research activity in the Southern Ocean is now growing very fast, and a much higher level of insight will be reached within the next 2–3 years.

The book has no index, and minor mistakes mainly due to imperfect translation. Most irritating is the use of acronyms in which the Russian initial letters are retained; thus FGGE (the First GARP Global Experiment, with GARP itself an acronym for Global Atmospheric Research Programme) becomes the unrecognisable PGEP, or at times, FIGAP. A mysterious electronics company called Magnavoks is mentioned, and Canadians will be interested to learn that their ship *Hudson*, which laid current meters in the Drake Passage in 1970, is described throughout as American. But these are small blemishes in a useful book. (Peter Wadhams, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER)

THE ICEBERG'S STORY

VOYAGE OF THE ICEBERG. Brown, R. 1986. London, Bodley Head. 166p. £9.95.

This is the story of the iceberg that sank the *Titanic*; or rather, the story of a typical iceberg that calves from the west coast of Greenland and ends its life in the North Atlantic. Richard Brown tells an exciting tale in a fascinating way. The history of the berg, and of the adventures which it may have undergone during its long drift, is interleaved with the history of the *Titanic* herself, her design, building, launch, fitting out, and the terrible complacency that underlay her first and last voyage. The fateful meeting of iceberg and