WILEY

Review

Author(s): W. S. B.

Review by: W. S. B.

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (Apr., 1918), pp. 264-265

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779366>

Accessed: 30-05-2016 04:15 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to The Geographical Journal

Indian type, and that they migrated thence to the Central Eskimo area, from Coronation Gulf to the Melville Peninsula, where they developed the true Eskimo culture and whence they spread eastwards to Greenland, south-eastwards to Labrador, and westwards to Alaska. No doubt the culture of the Central Eskimos is distinct from that found in other parts, being peculiarly adapted to the severe climate and ice-bound waters of the Arctic archipelago and less exposed to foreign influence. Here only can the snow house be used as a dwelling throughout the winter, and the blubber lamp is accounted for by the scarcity of other fuels, even driftwood. But that all forms of Eskimo culture are derived from this source requires further proof. Why should not the Eskimos have migrated east, north and west from their primitive abode and modified their Indian culture according to the physical conditions of the region to which each section removed? Why, for instance, should not the Labradorian Eskimos have developed their kayak for open sea fishing directly from the Indian birch bark canoe, instead of from the kayak of the Central Eskimos?

The Eskimos of Alaska were naturally more exposed, at least in earlier times, to external influence. Umiaks, Mr. Steensby points out, were used by Asiatics of the North Pacific, and the bladder-dart and double paddle are of Asiatic origin. That the Greenlanders derived their umiak from the west is probable owing to the constant communication along the northern coasts, and in this connection it is to be noted that the central Eskimos know the name, though they have not the boat, which would be of no use to them. Mr. Steensby has written a very full and useful account of the question, though he has not been able to give a complete and perfectly satisfactory solution.

W. A. T.

GENERAL

Modern Whaling and Bear-hunting.— **W. G. Burn Murdoch.** London: Seeley, Service, & Co. 1917. *Illustrations.* 21s. net.

Mr. W. G. Burn Murdoch's 'Modern Whaling and Bear Hunting' might again have had added to its title 'Notes and Sketches by an Artist,' as was the case with his earlier 'From Edinburgh to the Antarctic.' Again we luxuriate in his bracing and easy artist's style, in which the traits of an exceptionally able sporting naturalist are combined with much that is solidly interesting to the geographer among many others. His account of whales and whaling strongly emphasizes the economic and national importance of the world's greatest mammals, beyond the sporting aspect of the subject, and he adds besides much that bears on aspects of physical geography in the many latitudes visited, especially in relation to sea and clouds and colour generally. The North and South Polar Regions he vividly describes in tone and tint and colour in a way quite unequalled by ordinary explorers with even highly developed photography. In this connection we may say at the outset that there is one cause for regret—that there are not many more of the excellent colour sketches, as well as more of the author's clever black and white work in lieu of some of the photographs. (As an instance of Mr. Burn Murdoch's effective way of conveying geographical instruction, we may refer to the pair of sketches on p. 255 and the accompanying statement: "This is the difference between Arctic and Antarctic: in one, Man and his vessels dominate the scene; in the other the great forces of Nature make Man and his works seem very small.") But we suppose such an addition to the cost of production has been impossible during the present prohibitive war conditions. Fortunately

the book was written before the war, and it is refreshing to read a story so full of interest without one note of the death-dealing war drone in it. It should be a book well fitted for the inmates of shell-shock hospitals and the like.

Economically there is much of geographical importance regarding whales and their products, which have been and are of vast importance to our colonial empire, and which have brought us at last to recognize the value of the large area within the Antarctic Regions recently officially attached to our Falkland Islands colony, out of which that colony is now annually reaping the profits of one of the most lucrative of industries. Mr. Burn Murdoch mentions that the gross annual profits from this whaling industry carried on in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, South Shetlands, and even Graham Land amounted to £1,360,000 prior to the war, and we know that it greatly exceeds that amount at the present time; moreover, whale oil is actually one of the most important munition requisites for tempering guns and armour plates, and in this and other ways is of the utmost importance to our Allies and ourselves—a striking testimony to the importance of the Antarctic Regions, which require many more scientific expeditions to reveal their full utility.

Those at the head of the Food Controller's Department should read this book in order to learn that the whale affords one of the largest supplies of excellent meat in the world, and that from a British colony. "The best whale meat," says Mr. Burn Murdoch, "is better to eat and tastes better than the best beef; it is 'lighter' and more appetizing." The reviewer thoroughly endorses this statement, as he himself has lived largely dependent on whale meat—during many months as his chief food supply. A canning industry served by refrigerator meat vessels should at once be started at these Antarctic islands, and every encouragement should be given to the manufacture of margarine from whale fat.

W. S. B.

The "Sunbeam" R.Y.S. Voyages and Experiences in many Waters.—Earl Brassey. London: John Murray. 1917. *Portraits and Illustrations.* 21s. net.

When this book was announced it was feared by many whose interest in the *Sunbeam* had been created or stimulated by the late Lady Brassey that it would be merely supplementary to 'A Voyage round the World,' and the ever-popular 'Voyage in the *Sunbeam*'; but the author has given us an entirely new book, throbbing with his own personality. There is nothing very new in fact, quotations are freely borrowed from Lady Brassey, and old pamphlets, speeches, and contributions to magazines are pressed into service; the newness lies in its fresh presentation, interesting reminiscences, and record of impressions. It is by no means a faultless book. We question the wisdom of departing so frequently from the chronological order and of having parts written by another hand; and his lordship performs a comprehensive task when he transfers Bressay Island from Shetland to become a "natural break-water to the noble harbour of Kirkwall" (p. 43). Lord Brassey has always been a lover of the sea, and was elected a Fellow of the R.Y.S. as long ago as 1859. In his early days he sailed without serious purpose, but with the purchase of the *Sunbeam* he had the promotion of national and imperial interests constantly in view. He is proud of his fine ship, and tells how she sailed 1900 miles in a single week across the Atlantic, voyaged from Aden to Bombay in ten days, and on her last trip to India covered 1700 miles in seven and a half days. The accomplishment of Lord Brassey's life—