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Review: The Arctic Seas

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Consequently, we find successively treated Spitsbergen, Novaya Zemlya, Franz Josef Land, Cape Chelyuskin, the Lena delta, Bering strait, northern North America, the Parry islands, Boothia, Baffin bay, Smith sound, and Greenland. This feature undoubtedly gives the book individuality and value, for though it has been easy hitherto to follow the course of any one explorer northward, it has not been so easy to group the work of many explorers in any one area. In justice to the author, this has to be borne constantly in mind in reading the book. Otherwise, if the reader had expected a narrative historically complete even within the small compass of this volume, he might receive a certain shock on meeting the name "Fridtjof Nansen" (to take a single case) as the leader of an expedition without any foregoing introduction whatever. In effect, regarded from the point of view of the student of Arctic history, Mr. Gordon's is neither the first nor the second book he should take up; but with its aid he can classify geographically his knowledge already acquired. The unlearned reader will hardly find the book satisfactory. For the rest, one observes occasionally a certain looseness of expression, as when one reads how the *Windward* was able to escape from Franz Josef Land, and "to return in 1896 and take away Nansen, who . . . ended his long land journey here."

The interesting series of illustrations are from woodcuts, etc., by Mr. Edward Whympfer, drawn from a variety of sources. One or two from early originals are exceedingly interesting; some studies of polar scenery are beautiful; all are well produced. The maps are black-and-white sketch-maps.

THE ARCTIC SEAS.

'Osnovy Gidrologii Evropeiskago Ledovitago Okeana.' N. M. Knipovich. C 10-iu Tablitsami Kart i Profilei. St. Petersburg: Tipographia M. Stasiulevicha. 1906. Pp. 1510. (*Zapiski of the Russ. Geogr. Soc.*, vol. 42.)

In this bulky volume the present state of our knowledge of the Arctic seas north of Europe, from Spitsbergen and Bear island eastwards to Novaya Zemlya, including the White sea, is set forth in considerable detail. The most voluminous and important records utilized are those of the author's own expedition along the Murman coast in the years 1898-1901, but he has also collected other material from later and earlier investigations. The observations are very unequally distributed, and for large areas are entirely wanting, or have been obtained for a small part of the year only, and this work will serve to show where exploration is most needed. The different oceanographical subjects, such as depths, temperature of the surface and deep waters, salinity, transparency, currents, distribution of ice, etc., are treated with great fulness, and the literature relating to the hydrology of the area is noted with comments. In a supplement to this chapter the author criticizes certain arguments and conclusions of Prof. Pettersson, especially those contained in his article on ice-melting in the number of this *Journal* for September, 1904, and in his 'Ueber die Wahrscheinlichkeit von periodischen und unperiodischen Schwankungen in dem Atlantischen Ströme,' etc., which appeared as vol. 3 of the reports of the International Council for the exploration of the sea.

For the use of readers who are not acquainted with Russian, a long summary is added in German, wherein the contents of each chapter are noted, and references given to the tables, etc. Mr. Knipovich has also given sketches of his own work in the *Annalen der Hydrographie* and the *Revue internationale de pêche et pisciculture*.