

phant Island? Hardly less remarkable was the escape from the drifting floe after the crushing of the *Endurance*. Here the situation called for patience in a leader popularly regarded as impetuous; yet it was he who now played the waiting game in opposition to his party and so saved them when the time was ripe.

In evaluating what was both Scott's and Shackleton's judgment with respect to one important matter, Dr. Mill takes a peculiarly British viewpoint when he says of the party's poor effort in dog driving, "it served to strengthen the fine old British tradition which Sir Clements Markham set such store by, that the best polar draught animals are the human members of the expedition. And in their hearts the *Discovery* people did not believe in dogs." To the reviewer Shackleton once defended the British use of ponies as a substitute for dogs on the ground that their noses were more generally above the heavy drifting snow, ignoring the more important considerations that ponies can not endure the cold, break through the snow, and soon finish, leaving to the human members of the party the heartbreaking work of dragging the sledges at a snail's pace. Fine tradition though it may be, this obsession of British explorers has cost terrible sacrifices. Scott's last expedition proved that the Antarctic summer is too short for men to safely venture to the pole with man-hauled sledges, and Shackleton must have reached the pole on his first expedition had he been fitted out with good dog trains.

The sense of humor which was always keen in Shackleton is well illustrated by a Christmas talk to children. In response to their applause he said: "Now you kids, I'll put you up to a good thing. If you want to see what sledging is like, go home and harness the baby to the coal scuttle and drive round the dining-room table, but don't tell your mother I told you."

After setting out on his last expedition Shackleton wrote:

I love the fight and when things are easy I hate it, though when things are wrong I get worried. . . . I don't think I will ever go on a long expedition again. I shall be too old. [A little later he wrote:] Except as an explorer I am no good at anything. . . . I want to see the whole family comfortably settled and then coil up my ropes and rest. I think nothing of the world and the public. They cheer you one minute and howl you down the next. It is what one is oneself and what one makes of one's life that matters.

WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS

*Silurian*. Maryland Geological Survey. Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1923, roy. 8vo; 794 pp., 67 pl.

THE Maryland Geological Survey has just pub-

lished the volume on the "Silurian" of Maryland, the eighth of the series of reports dealing with the systematic geology and paleontology of Maryland. Like the preceding volumes, this is the result of cooperative work on the part of specialists. While there is always the danger of a lack of uniformity in such cooperative undertakings, it also leads of necessity to clarifying discussions among the associates and to an illuminating discussion of problems from somewhat different angles. The latter is, to some extent, also the case in the Silurian of Maryland, for we find on the one hand a careful, conservative description, with numerous sections (largely by W. F. Prouty), of the geographic distribution, geologic, stratigraphic and paleontologic relations, as well as interstate correlation, of the Silurian by C. K. Swartz; and on the other hand a general statement of the American Silurian formation by E. O. Ulrich and R. Bassler, combining the well-known vigorous and incisive criticism of the senior author with the minute, painstaking investigations of the junior author and through this excellent combination furnishing, after much necessary destruction of antiquated views, highly important constructive additions to our knowledge. This is especially apparent in the case of the Clinton formation, which by means of the most detailed study of the Clinton ostracods is divided into a number of zones, the tracing of which into the adjacent state has, so to speak, solved the troublesome Clinton problem for us by establishing reliable datum planes for long-distance correlations. In looking over the many plates of endless species of similar ostracods of the *Beyrichia* type, one might well think that the limit of refinement in species discrimination had here been reached and passed, but after all the results obtained warrant the outlay of time and money. It is another illustration of the general postulate of biology transferred into faunal stratigraphy, which is that the foundation has first to be laid by unlimited analysis for that final synthesis which is to yield the underlying laws of the biologic procession, as well as of the incessant movements of land and sea in the history of the earth.

The Silurian fauna of Maryland, save the ostracods, is carefully described and illustrated by Swartz and Prouty.

The volume is well illustrated, without being padded, by diagrams, photographs of typical sections and paleogeographic maps (by Ulrich). This new addition to the stately series of Maryland reports is in every way a credit to the state geologist, his collaborators, and to the state which shows its progressive interest and laudable pride in the geology of its territory by this magnificent series of publications.

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