Book Reviews

The Main Characteristics of the Structure of China: Preliminary Conclusions. *Scientica Sinica*, vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 492–544. T. K. Huang. Academia Sinica, Peking, China, 1960.

This article, published by the Academia Sinica, is a progress report on a subject to which the author made important contributions before 1950. As the magazine, *Scientia Sinica*, seems to be available in only a few libraries in the United States, American scientists would be interested in having more such articles reviewed in *Science*.

In a brief introduction the author comments on the progress of geological research in China during the last century, alluding to books by J. S. Lee, Huang, and Chang. At somewhat greater length he deals with progress since 1949. This section ends with the significant statement: "imbued with the policy of 'letting a hundred flowers blossom, and a hundred schools of thought contend' as put forth by Chairman Mao Tze-tung and supported by the tectonic map of China just compiled, we feel we have courage enough to present in this article our preliminary conclusions and viewpoints to serve as a basis for future discussions among geologists at home and abroad."

Next the author describes and interprets the geology of China by regions. He divides the entire country into two parts—Eastern China, which is called the Chinese Platform, and the Western Folded Regions. In the former the author recognizes 15 major units (called *paraplatforms* and fold systems), comprising 69 subdivisions, each of which is described in as much detail as space permits. In discussing the individual regions, the author notes that information about the geologic structure of some of them is still scanty (for example, Tibet). The accompanying index map shows Tibet and Taiwan (Formosa) as parts of China; however, the geology of Taiwan is dismissed in two lines. Reference is made in the article to a tectonic map of China recently published, and the author indicates that another map, on a slightly larger scale (1:3,000,000), is now being compiled. Again, American scientists would welcome an opportunity to have review copies.

In the second section of the paper, the geological history of China is discussed with special reference to structure, orogenies, and sedimentary cycles.

Seven topics are singled out for discussion in this part of the paper: (i) "The Indosinian cycle of movements and its identification"; (ii) "the Yenshanian cycle of movements and its importance"; (iii) "polycyclic orogeny and polycyclic magmatic activity"; (iv) "deep faults and great faults"; (v) "origin and development of big uplifts and big depressions"; (vi) "the paraplatform and its characteristics"; and (vii) "certain characteristics of the geosynclinal regions of China."

Of these the Yenshanian cycle affects almost all of China and is, therefore, treated at greatest length. The author concludes that Chinese geosynclinal regions are different from those in other parts of the world, and he enumerates five contrasting points.

In this section of the paper, it is not always easy to distinguish between fact and the author's opinion. The reader may be unable to evaluate many of the assertions, which have been made with apparent confidence, about correlations, events, and classification. He will also encounter a rather large number of unfamiliar terms, some of which have been introduced in this article—for example, *paraplatform* and *orthoplatform*, as well as a distinction between "deep faults" and "great faults."

An unusual feature of this paper is the treatment accorded previous workers in the same field. There is no terminal list of references, and there are but few specific citations to any earlier papers, even those which are casually mentioned in the text. The author seems to depreciate or ignore the work of most of his predecessors, especially that of foreign geological explorers of China. Although the work of J. S. Lee is commended, there is no mention of the important and extensive writings of Grabau, Wong, and others. There is, however, occasional mention of the ideas of "some geologists," but they are not named.

American readers will observe, perhaps without much surprise, an ideological slant here and there, especially in the introduction. Up to about 1949, scientific papers by Chinese geologists were as free from such political taint as those of their co-workers in the Free World. This was also quite as true of Huang's earlier writings. The paper here reviewed paints a sad picture of the plight of Chinese scientists before "the Liberation" and contrasts with it the rapid progress made since 1950 under "the brilliant leadership of the Chinese Communist Party." There is even a complimentary reference to "the big leap forward in industrial and agricultural spheres in 1958," which the author says was accompanied by a big step forward in geological work. Generous praise is rendered to the current régime in Peking for promoting geological research.

In a footnote it is stated that this paper was published in Chinese a few months earlier and has been translated into English by Comrade Wei of the Geological Library; apparently Wei is not as competent in English as Huang himself is well known to be. Perhaps some of the peculiarities mentioned above have been introduced in the final process of translation and editing.

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The 1956 Presidential Campaign. Charles A. H. Thompson and Frances M. Shattuck. Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1960. xv + 382 pp. $5.

Future generations of scholars may well know more about the presidential candidates and campaigns of the 1950's than about the comparable personalities and events of any previous epoch in American history. And a substantial portion of the credit may be given to the Brookings Institution and the series of volumes which was inaugurated with the massive *Presidential Nominating*