

ments in drill cores follow, reinforcing the chapters concerned with surface and near-surface exposures. These chapters, together with the discussion of red beds, combine a summary of previous ideas with admirable close description and assessment of the field evidence. Glennie's approach is critical and stimulating, and several unorthodox ideas are advanced in explanation of desert forms and sediments. The writing is in the main clear, though in some places the reviewer found a staccato style and disconnected sequences disconcerting.

Every book is to some extent a personal statement which reflects the experience and interests of its writer. This is at once a strength and a weakness. Glennie is familiar with desert sediments, and we all benefit by his experience. On the other hand, and despite the general title of the book, observations and discussion concern mainly the Old World deserts of which Glennie has firsthand knowledge; southern Africa, Australia, and to a lesser degree the Americas are neglected. Similarly Glennie's excursions into geomorphology are in some instances unfortunate. For instance, at the beginning of chapter 3 he bluntly states that "in the arid environment of a desert running water plays only a small part in the processes of erosion," a statement scarcely in keeping either with the observations and conclusions of many geomorphologists or with the extended treatment accorded fluvial and other water-laid sediments in the book under review. There are several significant omissions, apart from those stemming from the deficiencies of reference to the New World arid zones. The treatment of alluvial fan deposits is inadequate, and the work of Brown (1952) concerning the antiquity and origin of alluvial fans in Arabia is not mentioned. In discussing the possible role of vortices in the formation of longitudinal dunes Glennie does not cite the ideas of Bagnold (1953) and F  derovitch (1956), which anticipate the theme developed in this book. Travertine is not mentioned, though it surely should be in connection with the inversion of relief associated with calcified river channel sediments; and the work of Miller (1937) should also be cited in this connection. Gilgai and pediments are not discussed, and there is an unfortunate misprint (forest, instead of foreset, laminae) in the table of contents.

Nevertheless, the considerable virtues of *Desert Sedimentary Environments* easily outweigh these and other

blemishes. Beautifully produced and copiously illustrated, the book should find a home in the libraries of many geologists and geomorphologists interested in the arid lands.

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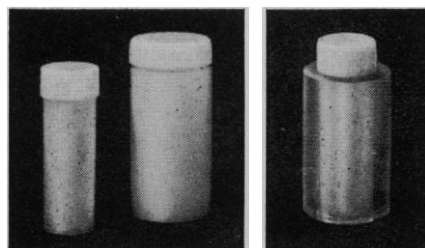
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(Continued on page 1168)

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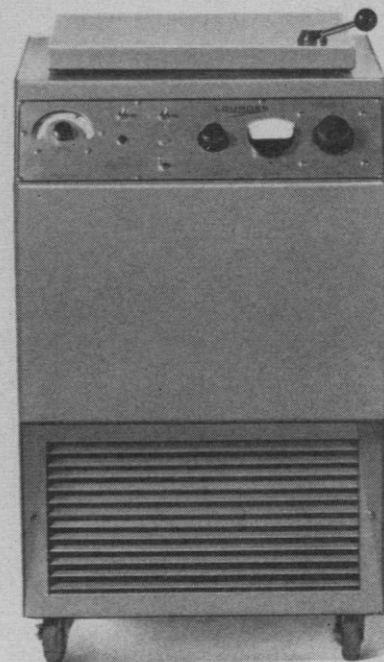
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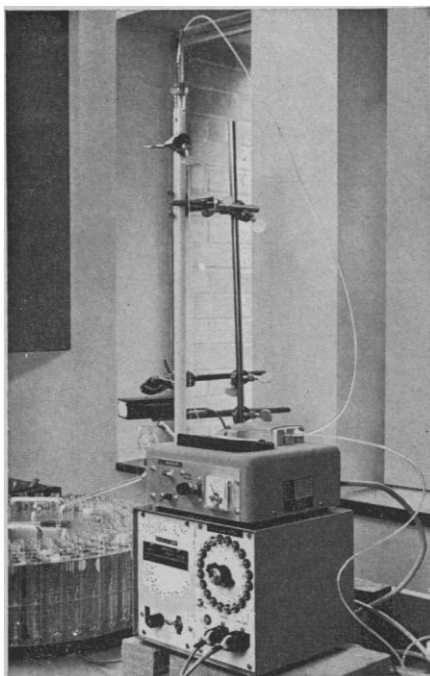
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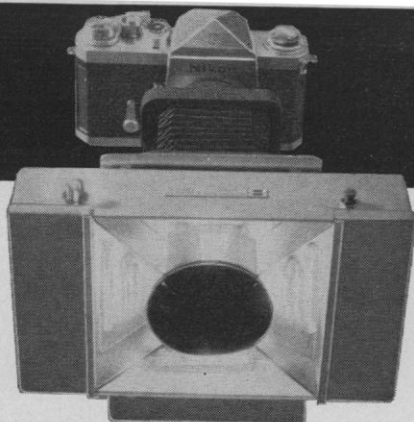
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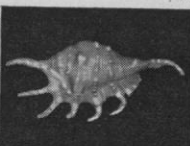
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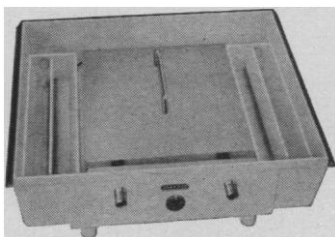


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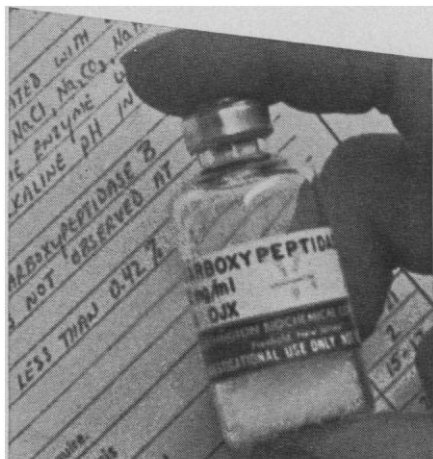
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