treatment of a number of issues. In its portrayal of the English school as the founders of modern historical geology it both exaggerates their modernity and undervalues the contributions of others. LEROY E. PAGE

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Some Other Books of Interest

Catastrophes and Earth History. The New Uniformitarianism. W. A. BERGGREN and JOHN A. VAN COUVERING, Eds. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1984. xii, 465 pp., illus. \$65; paper, \$19.50. From symposiums, Woods Hole, Mass., June 1977, and Lawrence, Kansas, Aug. 1977.

The majority of the papers in this volume were presented at a 1977 symposium at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on the theme of the state of uniformitarianism as a scientific subject. The first section of the book, headed The Concept of Catastrophe as a Natural Agent, consists of papers by S. J. Gould, R. H. Benson, P. E. Gretener, D. V. Ager, and C. R. Denham. The second section is a set of eight papers from the Second North American Paleontological Convention that deal with the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary event. The authors are N. D. Newell, A. G. Fischer, E. G. Kauffman, A. Boersma, L. J. Hickey, R. H. Tschudy, J. D. Archibald and W. A. Clemens, and D. A. Russell. Part 3, Catastrophic Processes in the Geological Record, contains papers by N.-A. Mörner, S. D. Webb, and R. H. Benson. Part 4, Catastrophes and the Real World, consists of a single paper, "Marine mineral resources and uniformitarianism," by K. O. Emery. Several of the papers cite references as recent as 1980. The volume lacks an index.-K.L.

Island Ecology. Sven-Axel Bengtson and PEHR H. ENCKELL, Eds. Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1983 (available from Oikos editorial office, Department of Animal Ecology, Ecology Building, 2-223 62 Lund, Sweden). 255 pp., illus. Paper, Sw. Cr. 100. Oikos, vol. 41, no. 3.

The editors of this special issue of Oikos posed to the contributors the questions "What remains of the theory of island ecology (biogeography) today to distinguish it from other theories formulated to explain the function of mainland communities? Where do we stand and where do we go next?" The contributors were invited to deal with these questions "by presenting new facts, by refuting established ideas, or by presenting alternatives to accepted dogma." The first "chapter," headed Origins and Composition of Island Faunas, consists of six papers (by Reyment, Diamond and Gilpin, Graves and Gotelli, Haila, Ahlén, and Southwood and Kennedy) that, in the editors' words, "describe and discuss their data at the lowest possible taxonomic level." In the chapter Processes in Island Communities, "species turnover . . . is a central theme." The chapter includes two experimental papers (Rey and Strong; Crowell) and a simulation study (Wright and Hubbell). The authors of the other papers are Schoener, Williamson, Abbott, Jennerston et al., Janzen, Toft and Schoener, Case, Travis and Ricklefs, and Connor and Simberloff. The third and final chapter, Extensions and Alternatives, includes theoretical papers by Rummel and Roughgarden and by Stenseth and papers by Wright, Bengtson and Block, Berry, and Grant and Grant that utilize empirical data. The issue has no index, but the papers include abstracts in both English and Russian. The editors' preface contains a brief assessment of the implications of the work as a whole.—K.L.

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Jr., Ed. Plenum, New York, 1984. xvi, 223 pp., illus. \$42.50.

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(Continued on page 444)

SCIENCE, VOL. 225