perhaps unavoidable. I recommend it to senior graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and of course to persons who wish to extract the maximum amount of physiologically relevant information from the lovely simple systems of cell culture.

ROBERT POLLACK

Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027

Basin Analysis

Lithostratigraphic Analysis of Sedimentary Basins. C. E. B. CONYBEARE. Academic Press, New York, 1979. xii, 556 pp., illus. \$39.50.

Basin analysis constitutes a major focus of the activity of many geologists, geophysicists, and engineers, especially those engaged in exploration for various types of natural resources. Conybeare has provided a general synthesis of lithostratigraphic concepts and methodologies commonly employed in basin analysis. Many previous works have approached this topic from the more specialized standpoints of stratigraphy, sedimentation, geophysics, or tectonics. Few have attempted the broad integration that is presented in this book.

The author's purpose was to provide a general review of sedimentary basin analysis and a commentary on basin classification, evolution, and development. Secondarily, it was to provide a general reference work on current approaches to integrated lithostratigraphic analysis. By and large, Conybeare has succeeded in this endeavor.

With increasing expansion and sophistication of all geologic subdisciplines, basin analysis by a single geologist has been largely replaced by analysis by teams of specialists who jointly are capable of vastly more detailed and accurate interpretations than have ever been possible before. Conybeare's approach is based on this development. Naturally, well-established lithostratigraphic practices, procedures, concepts, and principles are updated and reviewed. More interesting to those actively concerned with basin analysis is Conybeare's synthesis of basin classifications, development, and evolution as well as his applications of basin analysis to economic geology. Discussions of these topics constitute more than a third of the book. They are timely, stimulating, original in part, and the best summaries of these topics available.

Two disappointing aspects of an otherwise excellent coverage and presentation of lithostratigraphic methods in basin studies can be noted. There is only a rather superficial acknowledgement of seismic stratigraphy, which during the past decade has revolutionized basin analysis in areas where subsurface exploration is limited. That means nearly all the earth's continental shelves, which contain those basins that are being analyzed most actively today and will continue to be investigated over the next few decades. The contribution of seismic stratigraphy to basin analysis continues to grow each year, and its value is unsurpassed in areas of limited drilling; however, its significance remains largely unappreciated by those who have not been involved in recent offshore petroleum exploration. There is also a tendency to include in the text much explanation of figures and diagrams that could have been more appropriately included in their captions. For the most part, the detailed information is necessary and desirable, but its placement in the text often serves only to obscure the more important general points the author is attempting to make with the illustra-

Although Conybeare has evidently been most often oriented toward basin analysis for petroliferous resources, he has carefully tried to demonstrate application of basin analysis for all types of purposes, including discovery of coal, metallic ores, nonmetallic minerals, and groundwater resources as well as environmental (waste disposal), general earth history, and pure academic studies. Any scientist involved with basins in any way will find the book informative and readable.

C. John Mann

Department of Geology, University of Illinois, Urbana 61801

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