

poons. For good measure the book includes an introductory summary, a fascinating appendix on pre-war German electric harpoons, a further appendix on the IWC's involvement in promoting humane killing methods, and author and subject indexes.

**THE ICE-BOUND WHALERS.** Troup, J. A. (editor). 1987. Kirkwall, The Orkney Press. 129 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-907618-15-4. £4.95.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Orkney Natural History Society and foundation of the excellent Stromness Museum, this attractive little book traces the origins of the 19th century whaling connexion with Orkney and Shetland and gives a brief history of the museum. Subtitled 'The story of the *Dee* and the *Grenville Bay*, 1836-37', it includes two narratives from logs kept aboard whaling ships beset in Davis Strait during the hard winter of 1836. Well produced and beautifully illustrated with maps and contemporary prints; available also in hard cover.

**COAL POTENTIAL OF ANTARCTICA.** Rose, G. and McElroy, C. T. 1987. (Resource Report 2, Bureau of Mineral Resources). Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service. 19 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-644-05617-7.

Published for the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, this is a useful summary of current thoughts on the coal mining potential of the Antarctic continent. The writers conclude that more exploration is needed before 'a first approximation of the potential of coal as a resource can be obtained', and believe on balance that 'the many logistic, environmental, political, sociological and marketing problems would negate the economic mining of coal in Antarctica in the

foreseeable future, certainly until well into the next century.' Still, they provide a useful bibliography.

**A GUIDE TO THE OTOLITHS OF SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHES.** Hecht, T. 1987. South African Journal of Antarctic Research 17(1): 1-87.

A complete issue of this useful and often overlooked journal, devoted to a guide to otoliths of 120 species of fishes. Will be received with great interest by the many research workers who are currently interested in the messy business of identifying fish remains from stomach contents of predators.

**ANTARCTICA, CAMBRIDGE, CONSERVATION AND POPULATION: A BIOLOGIST'S STORY.** Bertram, Colin. 1987. Published by the author. 208 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-9512519-0-2. £8.00 including postage, obtainable from the author, Ricardo's, Graffham, Petworth, Sussex GU28 0PU.

This is the autobiography and memoirs of a biologist, well known in marine circles for his research on seals and sirenians, who in his own words was '... fortunate enough to sail beyond both polar circles before he was twenty five'. Bertram voyaged also to many other interesting places in pursuit of biology, notably to the Middle East for fisheries studies and to the tropics generally for work on sirenians. Between-whiles he spent many profitable years in Cambridge, including a spell (1949-56) as Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute. One long chapter of this book is of polar interest, covering expeditions both pre- and immediately post-World War II. The book is also for biologists, conservationists, historians and devotees of Cambridge University, packed with civilized thought on a host of topics from eugenics to pigeon towers.

## In Brief

**BAY OF WHALES DISAPPEARS.** A massive ice island almost 160 km (100 miles) long with an area of over 6200 km<sup>2</sup> (2450 square miles) has broken away from the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica, and is drifting westward in the Ross Sea. Its point of departure was Bay of Whales, a recurring feature of the ice cliff where an embayment and dip allowed easy access to the ice shelf. Named by Shackleton in 1908, the bay was used by Amundsen in his polar expedition three years later, and by US expeditions from 1928 onward to establish successive 'Little America' stations. The breakaway of the new ice island, B-9, was detected by remote sensing from McMurdo, the current US station in McMurdo Sound, and its movements are recorded by the NOAA-10 meteorological satellite from the monitoring centre in Suitland, MD, USA. The island represents two to three times the normal annual ice dis-

charge of the entire Antarctic continent, and contains, according to a US National Science Foundation spokesman, 'all the water needs of Los Angeles for the next 675 years'. (Source: National Science Foundation news release, 29 October 1987.)

**ALBERT P. CRARY PROFESSORSHIP OF PHYSICS.** The Regents of the University of Wisconsin have established the Albert P. Crary Professorship of Geophysics, 'in honour of one of the outstanding pioneers in polar geophysics and glaciology'. Dr Crary's polar research, which spanned 25 years, began in 1951, when he was chief scientist for US Air Force research on T-3 or 'Fletcher's Ice Island' in the Arctic Ocean. From 1955 he set up the Glaciological Headquarters of the US National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, and in 1957-59