

mathematicians of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries have been less studied and written about".

The French arithmetic of Jehan Adam composed in 1475 concludes this section of the book. The remainder deals with treatises on politics, moral philosophy, and other matters, but many readers will take pleasure in being introduced to the "De Constitutione mundi", by John Michael Albert of Carrara, the probable sources of whose information are carefully traced by the author.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. Thorndike and to the Dunning Fund for this volume of miscellaneous studies now presented to us.

Greenland.

Greenland. Published by the Commission for the Direction of the Geological and Geographical Investigations in Greenland. Editors: Prof. M. Vahl, Vice-Admiral G. C. Amdrup, Dr. L. Bobé, Prof. Ad. S. Jensen. (Published at the Expense of the Carlsberg Fund.) Vol. 2: *The Past and Present Population of Greenland.* Pp. iv + 415. (Copenhagen: C. A. Reitzel; London: Oxford University Press, 1928.) 35s. net.

THE first volume of "Greenland" was reviewed in NATURE of Mar. 23, 1929. This, the second of the three volumes planned, deals exclusively with the past and present inhabitants. Of the six articles, three are concerned with Eskimo ethnology and archæology, and three with the now extinct tenth century colonisation by Norsemen.

Dr. Birket Smith provides a full and interesting account of the present-day Greenlanders, their distribution, mode of life, and material culture. A contrast is made between the high-arctic type at Etah (Sir John Ross's Arctic Highlanders) and the subarctic kayak-using people farther south. The former can still be named Eskimo; the latter are Greenlanders, half Eskimo, half European. They appear to have none of the disadvantages so often implied by the term 'half breed', but on the other hand, with usages and habits modified by Danish influence, it can even be claimed that Greenlanders are in many ways superior to unmixed Eskimo stock. Their number at the present time is about 14,000, compared with 6000 at the beginning of last century. Dr. Birket Smith's description is the only full and accurate account of these people written since the publication of Dr. Rink's "Danish Greenland" in 1877.

Shorter articles deal with intellectual culture, and with Eskimo archæology. The latter, though brief,

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is fairly exhaustive, little excavation having as yet been undertaken. The nature of the older (Thule) culture is explained. Eskimo origins and the lines of immigration are discussed; from this it appears that the balance of evidence now is in favour of the view that north-east Greenland was peopled by way of the north, and that the track of the immigrants lay so far north as lat. 83° N.

The first of the articles on the Norse settlements is a general account by Finnur Jonsson based on historical records. This is followed by a description of the farm sites by Daniel Brunn; in this article reference is made particularly to the economic conditions considered likely at the time of the occupation. Finally, Dr. Norlund summarises the finds made at the Herjolfsnes burial ground in 1921, when well-preserved clothing of fourteenth and fifteenth century type was found in ground now permanently frozen. Dr. Norlund concludes that the colony died out as a result of the consequences of unsatisfactory diet, and that there was a complete absence of any intermingling with Eskimo. The view that there had been a setting-in of colder conditions is apparently not so confidently held. The three articles on the Norse settlements are brief accounts of a subject on which lately a good deal has been written: they show that Danish writers at any rate have refrained from making the history of the old colonies in any way fictitious or unduly sensational.

Both Eskimo and Norse sections of the book constitute most admirable accounts of the past history of Greenland and of the living conditions found there to-day. This book is definitely the authoritative work on Greenland and Greenlanders. Apart from its being indispensable, it is exceedingly well written and well produced.

J. M. WORDIE.

Our Bookshelf.

Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee. Begründet von Grimpe und E. Wagler. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe. Lieferung 15. Teil 9a: *Aculifera*, von H. J. Nierstrasz und H. Hoffmann; Teil 11 f: *Thalassobionte* und *thalassophile Myriapoda*, von O. Schubart; Teil 12h: *Pisces*. Pp. 64 + 20 + 141 + 164. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1929.) 8-80 gold marks.

WITH the fifteenth *Lieferung* (12 h 3) of this work the portion dealing with the fishes ends, the present part consisting of an appendix dealing chiefly with distribution. The fishes can now be obtained in a separate volume entitled "Die Fische der Nord- und Ostsee". In Part 9a (*Aculifera*), Drs. N. F. Nierstrasz and H. Hoffmann give a good account