

Karst landforms

Morphogenetics of Karst Regions. By L. Jakucs. Pp. 284. (Adam Hilger: Bristol, UK, 1977.) £17.

This book is a revised and enlarged version of an original text by the Hun-

garian geographer, Professor Jakucs. The generally good translation is by B. Balkay. In recent years there has been a number of books in different European languages on the landforms of karst (massive limestone) regions, but this book is the first to focus primarily on the processes and origins of karst landforms. It therefore not only fills a gap in our literature on karst but is

also a highly perceptive contribution to the subject.

After discussing the concepts of karst and of karst corrosion Jakucs treats his subject under the main factors which control karstification. These he lists as petrovariance; epirogenic movements (that is, structural variance); climatic variance; erosional and geomorphological variance; and anthropovariance. Each of these controls is discussed at length, and this forms the main theme of the book. The author aims to show that all variations of karst can be discussed in the light of the variants proposed.

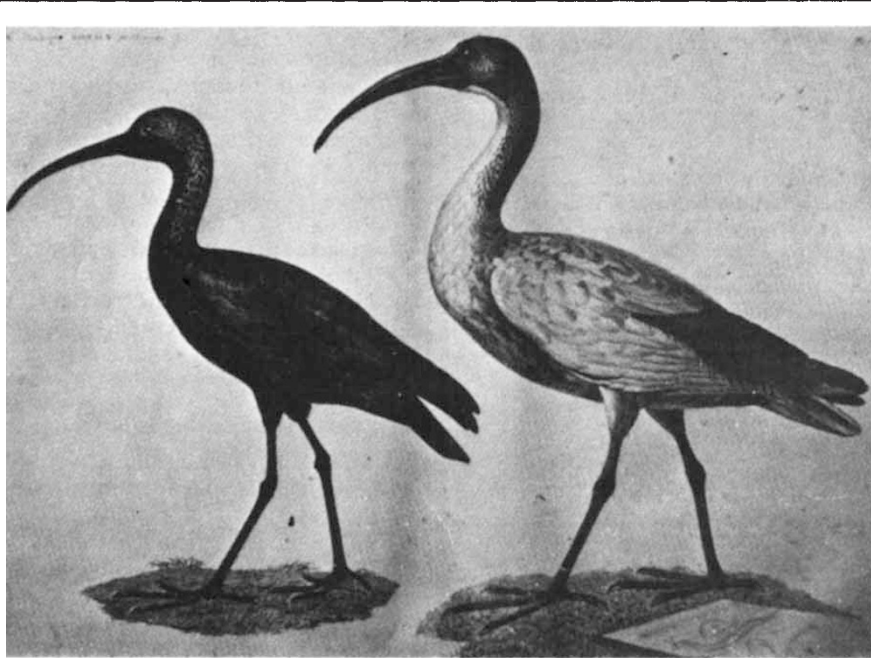
The treatment of each section is comprehensive and the discussion covers some ground familiar to karst geomorphologists. But the text is illuminated by Jakucs' own illustrations and careful experiments, which form the main scientific contribution of the book. There are certain sections which are therefore new and also controversial to the English karst morphologist. Four aspects are of particular interest. The first is that dealing with the effects of limestone crystallinity and lithostructure on karst corrosion. The second discusses the effects of soil microclimates on the development of karst depressions. Thirdly, the author has some interesting observations to make on the role of geomorphological situation and erosional variations on the origin of karst landforms; he usefully differentiates between authigenic and allogenic karst evolution. And fourthly there is an extended discussion on the effects of man on karst evolution; the results of deforestation, of spring development and of dam building are among the topics included. The author is perhaps least at home when dealing with the effects of climatic factors on the development of karst; even here, however, he has some shrewd comments to make, though he has had to rely mainly on the published literature.

The book is well illustrated with clear diagrams and photographs. The bibliography is especially good on Central and Eastern European works, but shows a lack of knowledge of the more recent Western European and American work (that is, since 1970).

The Hungarian school of karst morphology has long been distinguished for its contributions to all aspects of karst, both surface and underground. Professor Jakucs' book illustrates the depth and grasp of Hungarian work in this field, and his succinct work should be carefully read by all English workers in karst geomorphology.

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Illustrations taken from *Food: The Gift of Osiris* by W. J. Darby, P. Ghalioungui and L. Grivetti (Academic: London, New York and San Francisco, 1977; two volumes £12.50/\$27 and £12.50/\$25). These two volumes detail exactly what is known about ancient Egyptian food and eating habits. The book considers medical as well as nutritional uses, and provides a wealth of archeological and anecdotal information. *Top*, Sacred ibis drawn by scientists accompanying Bonaparte in 1799. The bird was associated with the god Thot, master of knowledge and secret science. Strict measures were taken to protect the bird in ancient Egypt, but it has since become extinct in that region. *Bottom*, Hand fish net (tomb of Ka-Gem-Ni at Saqqara, Old Kingdom, sixth dynasty, reign of King Teti, about 2390 BC). Open mouth V nets were used to collect fish which had been channelled into a fenced barricade, and this type of net is still in use today.