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REVIEW

UPPER PERMIAN AND LOWER TRIASSIC FAUNAS OF KASHMIR. Editors: Keiji Nakazawa and Hari Mohan Kapoor. Geological Survey of India, 1981, *Palaeontologia India* New Series, Vol. XLVI, Plates 1 to 21, 204 pp.

The Geological Survey of India has brought out this useful publication based on the systematic work carried out by the Japanese Palaeontologists. The Upper Permian and Lower Triassic successions of Guryul Ravine and the spur 3 kilometres north of Barus, near Srinagar in Kashmir have become world famous for demarcating the boundary between the Permian and Triassic systems. Incidentally this boundary coincides with the Era boundaries i.e., boundary between Palaeozoic and Mesozoic Eras.

A major part of the data included in the series of papers in the publication under review has already been published by the authors in scientific journals in Japan and other parts of the world. However, the present publication provides entire information in a single volume and serves as a ready reference for those working on the Palaeontology and Stratigraphy of the Permian and Triassic sequences exposed in different parts of the Himalaya.

The present publication begins with a thoughtful foreword by the then Director General of Geological Survey of India. The main body of the publication is divided into three parts. Part I discusses the stratigraphy of the Upper Permian and Lower Triassic sequences exposed in Kashmir. This paper, in fact, is an

abridged version of the detailed paper published earlier by the authors (Nakazawa *et al.*, *Mem. Fac. Kyoto University, Ser. Geol. and Mineralogy*, v. 42, pp. 1-106, 1975). It would have been better if the authors of this paper had included the latest map prepared by the officers of the Geological Survey of India in recent years instead of reproducing (Text fig. I, p. 8) an old map of C. S. Middlemiss (*Rec. Geol. Surv. India*, Vol. 37, Pt. IV, 1909).

Part II of the publication includes 9 papers exclusively authored by Japanese palaeontologists describing faunas of Zewan and Khunamuh Formations of Guryul Ravine and the spur three kilometres north of Barus. These papers deal with the systematic description of foraminifers, corals, bryozoans, brachiopods, bivalves, gastropods, ammonoids and conodonts. The varied fauna have been described in detail on the basis of modern nomenclature and classification and is supplemented by plates of good quality. These papers would serve as a very good base for those palaeontologists who are working on the Late Palaeozoic and Early Mesozoic faunas. This part is conspicuous by the absence of names of any palaeontologist from the Geological Survey of India. This is surprising since the fauna described was collected from Kashmir as part of a collaborative programme between the Geological Survey of India and the Japanese geologists.

Part III gives 'Analysis of the Late Permian and Early Triassic faunas of Kashmir'. This part synthesizes the observations made by the Japanese palaeontologist and discusses the affinities of the fauna of the Guryul Ravine and Barus section with other regions of the Himalaya. Possible correlation of the Zewan Formations of Kashmir with the sequences exposed in the Salt Range region of Pakistan and other parts of the Himalaya has been discussed.

The manuscript of the publication under review was submitted for publication on February 10, 1978 and it was released in the later half of 1981. During an interval of more than 3 years, several papers on the Permian and Triassic faunas (especially brachiopods, bivalves and conodonts) of Himalaya have been published by palaeontologists from India and abroad. The scientific community would have welcomed if one of the editors of the publication had up-dated the data as 'Appendix' to the present publication.

The publication is well got up, reasonably priced and will prove to be a valuable addition to University Libraries.

V. J. GUPTA

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I, B. P. Radhakrishna, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(*Sd.*) B. P. RADHAKRISHNA

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Editor, *Journal of the Geological Society of India*.