

is at present no perfectly reliable practical method of accurately estimating evaporation under field conditions.

The book can be recommended for study and use by meteorologists, hydrologists and irrigation engineers. It will also serve the purpose of a reference text book for post-graduate courses in hydrology and meteorology. The book is well printed and produced in the usual sumptuous style of publications of the Reidel Publishing Company.

*Bangalore*

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CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS FROM INDIA. R. V. Joshi and B. C. Deotare (1983), Deccan College Research Institute, Poona, p. 193, Price Rs. 150.

Publications on Archaeological chemistry are so rare that we welcome the present publication containing the chemical analyses of a large number of samples of Archaeological importance collected from sites from different parts of India. Robert Erdt, Director of the State Soils Laboratory, University of Wisconsin, in his foreword has correctly made an assessment of the importance of such studies: 'The combination of theory and practice suggests correctly that this research report is a landmark in the use of modern soil chemistry and archaeological interpretation based on field and laboratory research in India. Knowledge of the method employed and of the results will be of interest not only to colleagues in India, but in the rest of the world where abandoned settlements pose problems in the evaluation of history and in the assessment of rural areas of potential economical value'.

In Chapter 1, the authors have briefly surveyed the work done in the field of chemical analyses of Archaeological deposits. This is followed by a Chapter on Methodology (Chapter 2) and another on Physical Environment (Chapter 3). The main part of the work is confined to Chapter 4 which deals with Archaeological sites and their chemical analyses. Descriptions are arranged alphabetically commencing with Ahor and ending with Virapuram. Location of individual sites is shown on a Map. A geological and soil map would have added to the usefulness of the book. The results of analyses are briefly discussed in Chapter 5. This Chapter also includes a description of the behaviour and source of carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus in the soils. It is concluded that phosphorus content in soils is directly proportional to the intensity of human habitation. The vertical distribution of elements has helped in determining periods of desertion and reoccupation of sites and also in establishing stratigraphy. Another important conclusion reached is that the accumulation of phosphorus in ancient habitational sites is more due to addition of various materials on account of human activities than to accumulation of bones. Authors have admitted that it has not been possible to make an estimate of the human and animal population at the sites during particular periods of occupation. This aspect surely will form an area of future studies.

This is quite an interesting book which geologists will do well to read in order to widen their knowledge and enlarge their vision.

*Bangalore*

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