

Book Reviews

THE EVOLVING CONTINENTS By Brian F. Windley. Second Edition (1984). John Wiley, 399 pages. Price £ 9.95

This is the revised edition of Windley's book 'Evolving Continents' which first appeared in 1977 and immediately established popularity. This was largely due to the remarkably lucid way in which major developments in Earth Science during the last twenty years have been summarized. For the first time, a student of geology was exposed to the study of Earth as an integrated geological system evolving from primitive beginnings and ending with the spectacular development of the Himalayan fold belt.

The main interest in the book is the synthesized account of the evolution of Precambrian Shields—a subject which has not been given due importance in any of the available text books. The first eleven chapters, representing nearly half of the book, are concerned with the Precambrian. A welcome feature is the inclusion of the geological features of the Indian shield, a topic which most western scholars have ignored in their global surveys.

Coverage of the geology of the Indian shield and its different crustal elements is not as exhaustive as we would wish it to be, but within the limits imposed by length and other considerations of a text book, a fairly adequate summary of the salient features of the Indian Precambrian has been presented. A chapter on the Himalayas, tracing its structure and evolution has added to the value of the book.

The book summarizes what has been done in a quickly developing field and is sure to stimulate fresh thinking and study. Extensive bibliography at the end adds to the usefulness of the book. It is good reading especially for those interested in Precambrian geology.

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INDIAN GEOSCIENCE ABSTRACTS, 1975. Geological Survey of India 1984, pp. 327, Price Rs. 30.55, \$ 11.00

The Geological Survey of India in the earlier years was doing a good service by providing a gist of all the papers published on geology related to India every year along with the annual report of the Survey. This healthy practice had long ago been given up and students of Indian geology had no means of acquainting themselves with the growing literature. It is in this context that we welcome the release of Indian Geological Abstracts 1975 by the Geological Survey of India. Our only regret is that it has taken 9 years to release this issue. The utility of an abstracting service is maximum when it is quickly provided. We do hope earnest efforts will be made in bringing out these abstracts within a year or so of the publication of the papers.

The coverage in the present volume is exhaustive and the classification adopted is convenient to trace the required information. We only wish that some more thought had been given to typography and to better binding of the volume. In the list of serials, the most glaring omission is of the publication of the Survey itself. The Records, Memoirs and the Palaeontologia Indica series of the Geological Survey of India are conspicuous by their absence. The book is reasonably priced and should be within easy reach of most research workers.

Geological Society of India

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